

## WARRANT FOR 2015 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

TO: Judson Butterman, Constable, Town of Washington.

### GREETINGS

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Washington, Knox County, Maine, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Bryant Room of the Gibbs Library, 40 Old Union Road, Washington, on Friday, March 27, 2015, at 10:00 a.m., then and there to act on Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2, as set out below, the polling hours therefore to be from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.;

And to notify and warn said voters to meet at the Prescott Memorial School, 100 Waldoboro Road, Washington, on Saturday, March 28, 2015, at 10:00 a.m., then and there to act on Articles 3 through 39 as set out below, to wit:

Article 1: To choose a moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

**Town meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by the Town Clerk who called for nominations for moderator. A motion was made and seconded to nominate James Bowers and a motion was made and seconded to nominate Andrew Thompson.**

**James Bowers received 25 votes and Andrew Thompson received 14 votes.**

**James Bowers was elected by ballot to the position of moderator for the meeting and the town clerk duly swore him into office. James Bowers appointed Judson Butterman and Thomas Ford as deputy moderators.**

Article 2: To elect all necessary town officers and school board members as are required to be elected.

**Linda Luce, Mildred Melgard and Judith Brann checked in voters and Walter Metcalf served as election warden. The polls were closed at 8PM by moderator James Bowers.**

**Ballot clerks Nancy Barker, Elizabeth Bettcher, Deborah Hill and Carol Sloane sorted and counted the ballots. Berkley and Nancy Linscott observed the count. The moderator adjourned the meeting to 10:00am Saturday, March 28 2015 at the Prescott School.**

**The following is a list of votes cast: Total= 245**

**Selectman/Assessor/Overseer of the Poor:**

**Berkley Linscott: 132**

**Donald L. Grinnell: 112**

**Challenged: 1**

**RSU 40 School Board Director:**

**Cheryl Cichowski received 52 write-in votes**

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**Thomas Ford was sworn in as deputy moderator and Selectman Donald L. Grinnell led the Pledge of Allegiance. Tom went on to announce the results of Article 2.**

Article 3: To elect seven members and two alternates to serve on the Town of Washington Budget Committee.

**Tom Ford requested nomination for seven (7) members and two (2) alternates to serve on the Budget Committee.**

**Motions made and seconded to nominate the following to serve as members of the budget committee: Donald L. Grinnell, David Martucci, Kathleen Ocean, Wendy Carr, Dorothy Sainio, Jesse Casas, and Hank Aho. David Williams and James Kearney were nominated to serve as alternates.**

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to appoint all necessary town officials.  
**A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Selectmen to appoint all necessary town officials.**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Article 4 passes.**

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize that the Plumbing Inspector be paid from fees collected from plumbing permits; the E911 Coordinator be paid from E911 applications fees; and the Driveway Entrance Coordinator be paid from driveway entrance application fees.

**A motion was made and seconded to authorize that the Plumbing Inspector be paid from fees collected from plumbing permits; the E911 Coordinator be paid from E911 applications fees; and the Driveway Entrance Coordinator be paid from driveway entrance application fees.**

*Dorothy Sainio asked if this referred to three different people and if they received extra salary. Wes Daniel explained this was three different people. Wes issues the 911 address and receives the \$25 application fee, the Plumbing Inspector receives half of the plumbing permit fee and the Road Commissioner receives \$25 per driveway entrance permit.*

**Motion carries. One opposed.**

**Article 5 passes.**

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to pay up to the State wages pay rate for compensation of personnel and labor costs, and to allow the selectmen to negotiate the rate per hour cost for equipment used in maintaining public roads for the ensuing year.

**A motion was made and seconded to pay up to the State wages pay rate for compensation of personnel and labor costs, and to allow the selectmen to negotiate the rate per hour cost for equipment used in maintaining public roads for the ensuing year.**

*Merle Vanner asked if the road was taken care of by contract or town employees. Duane Vigue answered that they were town employees.*

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Article 6 passes.**

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount in each budgeted category of the 2015 annual budget during the period from January 1, 2016, to the date of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting.

*Explanation: This article legalizes municipal expenditures made after the fiscal year ends, but before the next Annual Town Meeting.*

**A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount in each budgeted category of the 2015 annual budget during the period from January 1, 2016, to the date of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting.**

**Motion carries. 3 opposed.**

**Article 7 passes.**

Article 8: To see if the Town will fix a date when taxes will be due and payable, and fix a rate of interest to be charged on unpaid taxes after said date.

*(Selectmen and Tax Collector recommend 2015 taxes will be due and payable on October 1, 2015)*

*(Maximum interest rate on overdue taxes allowed by State Law: 7.0%)*

**Motion and second for 2015 taxes to be due and payable on October 1, 2015 and for the interest rate on overdue taxes be set at 7.0%.**

*Andy Thompson made a motion to amend the amount of interest charged to 3%. His motion was seconded. Deputy Moderator Tom Ford called for discussion. Andy asked what the minimum amount charged could be and selectman Don Grinnell answered zero. Dave Martucci explained that a rate of 7% encourages people to pay their taxes. Chris Lascoux thought that 3-4 % would be more appropriate. Tom Johnston pointed out that loan rates charged by banks and credit cards are considerably higher than 7%. He went on to ask what the incentive would be to pay taxes when the taxpayer can give themselves a loan for 3%. Sandy Bourrie asked if there has ever been an analysis of how much it costs for the town to collect taxes. Dave Martucci reminded the voting body that the tax collector offers a tax club that divides payments over 10 months with no interest accrual.*

*Treasurer Ann Dean added that the town has not borrowed on a tax anticipation note in over 5 years.*

*Noah Rosen asked what happens when taxes weren't paid and Tax Collector Ann Dean explained the lien process. A motion was made and seconded to amend the article to lower the interest rate on unpaid taxes to 3%*

**Motion fails to pass. 12 in favor**

**Amendment fails to pass.**

**A motion was made and seconded to make 2015 taxes due and payable on October 1, 2015 and the rate of interest to be charged on unpaid taxes after said date is 7%.**

**Motion carries. 2 opposed.**

**Article 8 passes.**

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at 8%.

*Explanation: If taxes are paid and later abated, the Town must refund the abated taxes and pay interest on them. 36 MRSA, Sub. Sect. 506A calls for interest of 12% on abated taxes if the Town fails to set a rate. The rate set by the Town cannot be less than 8%.*

**A motion was made and seconded to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at 8%.**

*Noah Rosen asked why the town charges the highest rate on unpaid taxes but pays the lowest rate on abated taxes. Dave Martucci, Washington resident and assessor's agent in Thomaston, explained and gave an example of how it could be very expensive for the town if a large taxpayer were to have taxes abated. Janet Martucci added that we all are "the town" and this would affect all of us in the form of higher taxes.*

**Motion carries. 1 opposed.**

**Article 9 passes.**

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to make a determination regarding the closing or opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 MRSA Section 2953.

**A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Municipal Officers to make a determination regarding the closing or opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 MRSA Section 2953.**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Article 10 passes.**

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell and dispose of property acquired by tax liens, other liens, or other processes, and to issue quitclaim deeds for same. Before going to public auction, Selectmen are authorized to offer the sale of the property to the former owner and to negotiate

the sale to the former owner at a price that the Selectmen deem most advantageous to the Town. If offer is not accepted in 60 days, the Selectmen may begin the auctioning process. All net proceeds from any auction shall be placed in the Town's Road Reserve account.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Selectmen to sell and dispose of property acquired by tax liens, other liens, or other processes, and to issue quitclaim deeds for same. Before going to public auction, Selectmen are authorized to offer the sale of the property to the former owner and to negotiate the sale to the former owner at a price that the Selectmen deem most advantageous to the Town. If offer is not accepted in 60 days, the Selectmen may begin the auctioning process. All net proceeds from any auction shall be placed in the Town's Road Reserve account.

*Pat Medieka asked if it would be a public auction. Selectman Duane Vigue clarified that the property would be first offered back to the original owner before going to public auction.*

*Andy Thompson asked if all back taxes and fees were collected Treasurer Ann Dean answered yes that all back taxes and fees are collected from the former owner. Norman Casas pointed out that the way the article was written, that the Selectmen could offer the property back for \$1 if they felt it was most advantageous to the Town.*

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Article 11 passes.**

Article 12:

To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to appropriate money from the sale of any Town tax acquired lands to pay the costs of said sale.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Selectmen to appropriate money from the sale of any Town tax acquired lands to pay the costs of said sale.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Article 12 passes.**

Article 13:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to dispose of town-owned items with a value of \$1,000.00 or less under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Selectmen to dispose of town-owned items with a value of \$1,000.00 or less under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Article 13 passes.**

Article 14:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the 2014 Snowmobile Refund to the Washington Hill & Gully Riders for the sole purpose of maintaining their snowmobile trails, to be open to the use of the public from November 15 until April 1 and to authorize the municipal officers to enter into an agreement with the club, under such terms and conditions as the municipal officers may deem advisable, for that purpose, or see what action the Town will take.

*Explanation: The snowmobile registration money must be appropriated annually by the Town for whatever purpose it desires. If all or part of it is appropriated to the snowmobile club, one of the conditions of that appropriation must be that the club's trails are open to public use. Otherwise, it would be an illegal appropriation of public funds for a private group.*

A motion was made and seconded to appropriate the 2014 Snowmobile Refund to the Washington Hill & Gully Riders for the sole purpose of maintaining their snowmobile trails, to be open to the use of the public from November 15 until April 1 and to authorize the municipal officers to enter into an agreement with the club, under such terms and conditions as the municipal officers may deem advisable, for that purpose, or see what action the Town will take.

*Andy Thompson asked about the April 1 date. Tom Johnston explained this is a date set by the State. David Heckman asked what the amount of the refund would be. Treasurer Ann Dean explained \$337.62 has already been received for the 2014 refund.*

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Article 14 passes.**

Article 15:

To see if the Town will authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes for the years 2015 and 2016 for taxes not yet due or assessed and for no interest to accrue.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes for the years 2015 and 2016 for taxes not yet due or assessed and for no interest to accrue.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Article 15 passes.**

- Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to offer a Tax Club Payment Plan and to waive interest on taxes for those accounts that are kept current.  
A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Tax Collector to offer a Tax Club Payment Plan and to waive interest on taxes for those accounts that are kept current.  
*A resident asked if the club was for prepayment of taxes or after taxes were due. Tax Collector Ann Dean explained that the first payment of 10 installments is due by October 1 and that late payment would result in removal from the club with interest accruing back to October 2.*
- Motion carries unanimously. Article 16 passes.
- Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Fire Chief and other municipal officials to apply for Homeland Security and/or other grants for Emergency Services.  
A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Fire Chief and other municipal officials to apply for Homeland Security and/or other grants for Emergency Services.
- Motion carries. 2 opposed. Article 17 passes.
- Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to spend any grant money received, not to exceed the amount of the grant, for the stated purposes of the grant only.  
A motion was made and seconded to spend any grant money received, not to exceed the amount of the grant, for the stated purposes of the grant only.  
*Norman Casas asked if this applied to all grants or grants only in the previous article. Selectmen Wesley Daniel answered that if applied to all grants.*
- Motion carries unanimously. Article 18 passes.
- Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to renew the annual \$250,000 municipal line-of-credit with Machias Savings Bank.  
A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Selectmen to renew the annual \$250,000 municipal line-of-credit with Machias Savings Bank.  
*A resident asked what the \$250,000. line of credit did. Wesley Daniel replied that it was for tax anticipation in case we needed it. Treasurer Ann Dean explained that though we haven't needed to borrow on the line of credit, the town saves money because we no longer need to pay attorneys for a bond opinion.*
- Motion carries unanimously. Article 19 passes.
- Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to move the 2015 overlay, plus supplemental tax assessments and less any tax abatements, into the Road Reserve Account.  
A motion was made and seconded to move the 2015 overlay, plus supplemental tax assessments and less any tax abatements, into the Road Reserve Account.  
*Chris Lascoux questioned why this and article 11 both move money into the Road Reserve Account. Wes Daniel answered that we are trying to build the road reserve account up in anticipation of two major culvert replacements on the Vanner Rd. and the Young's Hill Rd. A request to crush tailings in another article will possibly come out of the account as anything related to roads. Duane Vigue pointed out roads are one of the biggest items on our budget. Don Grinnell added that it would lose its visibility if allowed to lapse into the general fund at year end.*
- Motion carries unanimously. Article 21 passes.
- Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$2,000.00 from the Headstone Restoration fund to repair and clean the headstones in the Storer Cemetery.  
A motion was made and seconded to appropriate up to \$2,000.00 from the Headstone Restoration fund to repair and clean the headstones in the Storer Cemetery.
- Motion carries unanimously. Article 21 passes.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$186,000 from the Road Maintenance Account and the Local Roads Assistance Program (LRAP) Account for repair and repaving of the Vanner Road and to allow the Board of Selectmen to determine the amount of funding to take from each account.

A motion was made and seconded to appropriate up to \$186,000 from the Road Maintenance Account and the Local Roads Assistance Program (LRAP) Account for repair and repaving of the Vanner Road and to allow the Board of Selectmen to determine the amount of funding to take from each account.

*Dan Rogowski asked if this was for just paving or including culverts. Selectman Duane Vigue explained that it was just for the paving. Wes Daniel said culvert replacing and ditching would come out of capital improvement which is part of the LRAP money. A resident asked if the work would be done at the same time and Wes answered that the brush cutting, ditching and culvert replacement would be done before the paving. Another resident asked if the entire road would be paved. Duane answered yes that it would be the entire road and pointed out the possibility of using chip seal method where appropriate to save money. Elizabeth Vanner asked why total improvements couldn't be put into one article. Wes Daniel explained that the culvert project is separate and will be coming out of the road reserve account instead of doing an appropriation for the culvert. Bo Marks asked if Lane was in any way financially responsible for first 6/10 of a mile. Duane explained that the agreement was for every other paving and that it would be Lane's responsibility in the next paving cycle. Cynthia Rosen asked for clarification about the request for \$160,000 in article 27 for the paving of Vanner Rd. Don Grinnell explained that article 22 only authorizes the Board pave the Vanner Rd and to spend up to \$186,000 of which the \$160,000 referred to in article 27 will come from the road maintenance account and \$26,000 from LRAP.*

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 22

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the following General Fund revenues to be applied toward the 2015 property tax commitment, thereby decreasing the 2015 tax commitment by \$361,500.00.

*Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend:*

Excise Tax Revenue	220,000.00
State Revenue Sharing	40,000.00
Tree Growth Reimbursement	2,700.00
Building and Plumbing Permits	1,200.00
Mining Permits and Inspections	4,000.00
Interest on Overdue Taxes	16,000.00
Veterans Reimbursement	1,600.00
Other Town Fees Collected	13,000.00
Unexpended 2014 Appropriations	46,000.00
Undesignated Fund Balance	15,000.00
General Fund Interest	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total	361,500.00

A motion was made and seconded to appropriate the following General Fund revenues to be applied toward the 2015 property tax commitment, thereby decreasing the 2015 tax commitment by \$361,500.00.

*A resident asked if the plumbing inspector got the revenue from the plumbing permits. Selectman Don Grinnell answered that the plumbing inspector gets half of the permit fee. He went on to ask if we knew what the figure would be. Ann Dean replied the amount is anticipated and based on past year collections.*

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 23 passes.

*Selectman Donald L. Grinnell explained how each year the Board of Selectmen have chosen a Spirit of America unsung hero award recipient. This award is given by the Spirit of American Foundation in*

*recognition of volunteerism in towns across the State and country. Don pointed out that Washington was one of the first towns in Maine to give this award.*

*Don went on to read an introduction and tribute to the 2014 recipient, Madelon Kelly. Her tireless service to Gibbs Library and her devotion to the children of Washington were acknowledged and applauded by the town citizens.*

*Don congratulated Berkley Linscott on his win and thanked the citizens for their support over the years. The Town citizens gave Don a standing ovation in appreciation for his years of service to the Town of Washington.*

*Tom Ford called the meeting back to order. He explained how the articles are based on a sum certain and amounts can never go up but they can go down. Tom went on to outline the procedure for going through the article.*

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$51,750.00 from property taxation for General Government Operations.

*Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:*

Legal Fees		15,000.00
Administration		36,750.00
Advertising	500.00	
Audit of Town Books	5,000.00	
Computer Annual Fees	9,500.00	
Computer Tech Support	750.00	
MMA Dues	3,000.00	
Mileage	2,000.00	
Money Order Fees	500.00	
Office Equipment	3,500.00	
Office Supplies	2,000.00	
Postage	2,000.00	
Printing and Photocopies	200.00	
Selectmen Discretionary Fund	500.00	
Tax Maps	1,000.00	
Tax Billing	1,300.00	
Town Report Printing	3,000.00	
Workshops and Training	<u>2,000.00</u>	
Subtotal	36,750.00	
		Total 51,750.00

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$51,750.00 from property taxation for General Government Operations.

*Cynthia Rosen questioned why Legal Fees went from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Duane Vigue explained that multiple land use violations were brought to court and some are still in court so town is looking at possible increased legal expenses. Dave Martucci reminded us that State requires us to enforce our ordinances whether the money is appropriated or not and the town will be required to pay legal bills. Pat Medeika asked for the name of the Town attorney. Duane answered that Fred Newcomb is the town attorney who operates out of Rockland. Cynthia Rosen moved to have the amount put back to \$5,000. and her motion was seconded.*

*12 in favor of amendment. 46 opposed.*

*Amendment fails to pass.*

*A resident asked what the computer annual fee was comprised of. Ann Dean explained this covered software licenses and annual website fees that charge a yearly fee.*

*Bo Marks what money order fees were used for. Ann Dean explained were used to make daily deposits from the office desktop. Dave Heckman asked about the \$200 printing line and how did the town report get printed for that amount. Wes explained the line for town report printing is separate.*

Motion carries. 1 opposed.

Article 24 passes.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$29,866.00 from property taxation for Insurance.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

MMA Insurance Risk Pool	18,000.00
Unemployment Insurance	1,433.00
Worker's Compensation Premium	9,333.00
Volunteer Insurance	300.00
Firefighter Accident Insurance	<u>800.00</u>
Total	29,866.00

A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$29,866.00 from property taxation for Insurances.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 25 passes.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$151,900.00 from property taxation for Salaries, Stipends, Employee Health Insurance, and Payroll Expenses.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

Salaries and Stipends		114,400.00
Selectmen (3)	19,500.00	
Secretary - Selectmen	750.00	
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	22,100.00	
Treasurer	12,400.00	
Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Treasurer	19,800.00	
Registrar of Voters	1,500.00	
Ballot Clerks	1,000.00	
EMA Director	750.00	
Health Officer	500.00	
Fire Warden (2)	300.00	
Fire Chief	4,000.00	
Deputy Fire Chief	3,000.00	
Firefighter Stipends	3,750.00	
Secretary - Planning Board	1,000.00	
Secretary - Appeals Board	250.00	
Assessor's Agent	4,500.00	
Animal Control Officer	1,750.00	
Deputy Animal Control Officer	1,750.00	
Code Enforcement Officer	15,000.00	
Constable	100.00	
Moderator of March town meeting	200.00	
School Board Member Stipend (2)	1,000.00	
Custodial Services	<u>1,500.00</u>	
Sub-total	116,400.00	
Town Portion of Employee Health Insurance		19,500.00
FICA Payroll Expenses		<u>16,000.00</u>
Total		151,900.00

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$151,900.00 from property taxation for Salaries, Stipends, Employee Health Insurance, and Payroll Expenses. Carol Sloane asked if there was a lot going on with animal control officer and who they are. Ann Dean answered that Clayton Lanphier and Andy Dinsmore were the ACO's who get more calls in the spring, summer, and fall. Norman Casas about what the EMA officer was and Tom Ford explained it stood for the Emergency Management Agency.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 26 passes.



Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$403,300.00 from property taxation for Maintenance of Town Roads and related operations.

*Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:*

Road Maintenance Materials & Supplies	12,000.00
Truck Fuel	18,000.00
Truck Maintenance	
P100	1,000.00
P200	4,000.00
P300	4,000.00
P400	4,000.00
P500	4,000.00
Cutting Edges and Sander Chains	7,500.00
Culverts	3,000.00
Loader and Backhoe Fuel	2,800.00
Loader and Backhoe Maintenance	7,500.00
Garage Mortgage	12,500.00
Garage Utilities	3,500.00
Garage Maintenance	2,000.00
Road Maintenance Labor	100,000.00
Equipment Rental	13,000.00
Screening Winter Sand	13,000.00
Road Salt	30,000.00
E911 and Road Signs	1,000.00
Paving of Vanner Road	160,000.00
Driver OSHA and DOT Screening and Testing	500.00
	<u>500.00</u>
	Total 403,300.00

**A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$403,300.00 from property taxation for Maintenance of Town Roads and related operations.**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Article 27 passes.**

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,500.00 from property taxation for General Assistance.

*Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:*

General Assistance	3,500.00
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**A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,500.00 from property taxation for General Assistance.**

*A resident asked what General Assistance was used for. Wes Daniel explained the GA application process and if the applicant qualifies under State guidelines the money could be used for food, fuel or rent. Wes went on to say that the town is reimbursed for half by the State.*

*Noah Rosen asked if the amount could be raised from \$3,500. to \$15,000. Moderator Tom Ford reminded Noah that the amount could only go down.*

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Article 28 passes.**

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$43,342.00 from property taxation for Public Safety.

*Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:*

Fire Department General Support	8,500.00
Fire Department Equipment	8,500.00
Firefighter Training	2,000.00
Firefighter Physicals	2,500.00
Fire Truck Loan Payment	19,092.00

Hose Testing	<u>2,750.00</u>
	Total 43,342.00

A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$43,342.00 from property taxation for Public Safety.

*Dave Martucci asked why the Union Ambulance Assessment was not included in this total. Selectman Grinnell explained that since it is an assessment, as is also the RSU40 and Tri-County Solid Waste, we have no control over the amount.*

Motion carries unanimously. Article 29 passes.

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$43,000.00 from property taxation for Utilities and Maintenance.

*Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:*

Town Utilities	16,000.00
Building Maintenance	8,000.00
Cemetery Maintenance	13,000.00
Street Lights	3,000.00
Municipal Complex Snow Removal	<u>3,000.00</u>
	Total 43,000.00

A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$43,000.00 from property taxation for Utilities and Maintenance.

*Carol Sloane asked if consideration was given to small solar panels that power street lights. Duane Vigue answered that he researched this question after her last year's request and units were expensive. He answered that there is a push to make this technology more affordable to municipalities and that he would follow up.*

Motion carries unanimously. Article 30 passes.

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,100.00 from property taxation for Boards and Committees.

*Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:*

Conservation and Parks Committee	500.00
Planning Board Expense	500.00
Midcoast Regional Planning Commission	600.00
Comprehensive Plan Review Committee	<u>500.00</u>
	Total 2,100.00

A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$2,100.00 from property taxation for Boards and Committees.

Motion carries unanimously. Article 31 passes.

Article 32: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$13,000.00 from property taxation for Town Carry-over Accounts.

*Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:*

Cemetery Headstone Restoration Fund	1,000.00
Town Record Preservation Fund	1,000.00
Recreation Committee Fund	1,000.00
Road Maintenance Truck Fund	<u>10,000.00</u>
	Total 13,000.00

A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$13,000.00 from property taxation for

**Town Carry-over Accounts.**

*Andy Thompson asked for the balance in the truck fund. Wes Daniel answered zero and that it was for future truck purchases. Jesse Casas commended the selectmen for putting aside cemetery money and how important it is to honor the people who were here before us.*

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Article 32 passes.**

**Article 33:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$13,221.00 from property taxation for Miscellaneous Accounts.

*Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:*

Line-of-credit Interest and Bank Fees	250.00	
Lincoln County Humane Society	1,527.00	
Flags for Veterans Graves and Town Parks	500.00	
Damariscotta Lake Watershed Dues	50.00	
Washington Watershed Association Lake Testing	837.00	
Social Agencies and Concerns	10,057.00	
Coastal Trans	700.00	
New Hope for Women	750.00	
Broadreach Services	750.00	
Washington Food Bank	2,000.00	
Pine Tree Chapter American Red Cross	1,400.00	
Spectrum Generations	920.00	
Penquis Community Action Program	1,537.00	
Minnie Weaver Scholarship	1,000.00	
Washington Historical Society	<u>1,000.00</u>	
Sub-total	10,057.00	
		Total 13,221.00

**A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$13,221.00 from property taxation for Miscellaneous Accounts.**

*Norman Casas thanks for town for the support to the DLWA. Carol Sloane asked about the \$2,000 for food bank. Tim Lewis explained that between \$7,000 & \$8,000 is spent per year to purchase food. He said that money is received from the town and most food is purchased from Good Shepherd. However, due to low inventory at Good Shepherd he is forced to make outside food purchases in order to serve the 30-36 families per month.*

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Article 33 passes.**

**Article 34:** To see if the town will vote to appropriate \$46,888.16 from the 2015 Local Roads Assistance Program (LRAP) for road improvement.

*Selectmen recommend as advisory lines:*

Paving of Town Roads	26,888.16	
Capital Improvement of Town Roads	<u>20,000.00</u>	
	Total	46,888.16

**A motion was made and seconded to appropriate \$46,888.16 from the 2015 Local Roads Assistance Program (LRAP) for road improvement.**

*A resident asked if this money was to maintain existing roads. Duane Vigue explained that this is used to maintain existing roads and to replace metal culverts with culverts that last 100 years.*

*\*During this discussion the strong aroma of bacon permeated the Prescott School gym and was noted by the moderator.*

Motion passes unanimously.

Article 34 passes.

Article 35: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000.00 for the repair and restoration of Washington Fire Department Vehicle "Rescue 1".

Note: This Article was submitted to the Selectmen after the meeting with the Budget Committee. The estimate for the work considered was received late by the Fire Department. This has "not" been reviewed by the Budget Committee.

A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$20,000.00 for the repair and restoration of Washington Fire Department Vehicle "Rescue 1".

*Dorothy Sainio asked if was put out to bid and if this was a definite figure. Fire Chief Tom Johnston apologized that the budget committee did not receive the information at their meeting. He explained the aluminum corrosion next to the stainless was the problem. He got the estimate from a reputable company that understood the issue. Andy Thompson asked if another body could be found instead. Tom said that the issue isn't the chase but the body needs to be compatible to their systems so the body is not replaceable. Mounting on another system would be more expensive to move to another unit and that this was the cheapest way out. Andy asked if another town had a setup that was identical to ours and Tom answered that there was only one other like it in the State. He added that Rescue 1 was purchased in 2004 from Fairfax County, VA and its last call was to the Pentagon on 9/11.*

Motion passes unanimously.

Article 35 passes.

Article 36: To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to purchase a plow truck with a cost not to exceed \$155,000 and to allow the selectmen to determine the financing for said purchase in a manner most advantageous to the Town.

*Treasurer's Financial Statement, Town of Washington:*

<i>1. Total Town Indebtedness</i>	
<i>a. Total Mortgage - Municipal Garage (11 years remaining)</i>	<i>\$102,742.81</i>
<i>b. Total Fire Truck Loan - "Tanker 1" (2 years remaining)</i>	<i>36,000.00</i>
<i>Total Indebtedness</i>	<i>\$138,742.81</i>
<i>2. Costs</i>	
<i>a. New or Used Plow Truck Principal</i>	<i>\$155,000.00</i>
<i>b. New or Used Plow Truck Interest (6 year loan @ 3.0%)</i>	<i>28,612.61</i>
<i>Total Payment</i>	<i>\$171,675.68</i>

*The validity of the above loans and the voter's ratification of the loan may not be affected by any errors in the above estimates. If the actual amount of total debt for the mortgage and loan varies from the estimate, the ratification by the electors is nevertheless conclusive, and the validity of the loan is not affected by reason of variance.*

*Ann Dean, Town Treasurer*

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the selectmen to purchase a plow truck with a cost not to exceed \$155,000 and to allow the selectmen to determine the financing for said purchase in a manner most advantageous to the Town.

*Guy Bourrie asked if this is required to go out to bid. Duane Vigue answered that there was no such requirement. Duane added that we would be looking at 2012 models on up and would be searching the*

*immediate area as well as the Boston area. A resident asked how many trucks we have and Duane explained 5 with one needing to come off the road as it is no longer safe or financially feasible to fix. Deb Ziegler pointed out that the Truck costs total payment should read \$183, 612. to correct the \$171,675.68 listed in the Treasurers Statement.*

*Don Grinnell explained the benefits of the line of credit and how it would enable us to act quickly on a truck purchase if necessary. Norman Casas asked if this article was under the constraint of State Law of not going over the \$155,000 listed in the article. Tom Ford answered yes.*

**Motion carries. 2 opposed.**

**Article 36 passes.**

**Article 37:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$35,000.00 from the Road Maintenance Reserve Account for crushing of surface gravel from "tailings" left over from screen winter sand in previous years.

**A motion was made and seconded to appropriate \$35,000.00 from the Road Maintenance Reserve Account for crushing of surface gravel from "tailings" left over from screen winter sand in previous years.**

**Motion carries. 1 opposed.**

**Article 37 passes.**

**Article 38:** To see if the town will vote to appropriate the necessary funds from the Road Maintenance Reserve Account for major culverts replacement projects on the Vanner Road and Youngs Hill Road once the engineering, design, and the Federal and State permitting process is complete.

**A motion was made and seconded to appropriate the necessary funds from the Road Maintenance Reserve Account for major culverts replacement projects on the Vanner Road and Youngs Hill Road once the engineering, design, and the Federal and State permitting process is complete. Andy Thompson asked for the culvert costs. Duane explained the estimated cost of the culvert on Vanner Rd would be \$75,000. and the Young's Hill culvert is estimated to cost \$220,000. Duane pointed out that the culvert projects will go out to bid. Elizabeth Vanner asked if the culvert size needed to be the same as the old one and Duane answered yes it did need to be the same. Charles Vanner asked if the brook was designated as a salmon hatchery. Duane Vigue answered that yes it was designated as a hatchery by the Army Corps of Engineers, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and a Salmon Organization. Charles Vanner contends that there are no salmon in the brook. Charles went on to say that Vanner Rd. is a State Aid Highway and needs to be maintained according to State specifications. He also felt that test wells should be done at the closed dump and suggested that the salt and sand shed be covered in a secure building. Merle Vanner agreed with Charles that there is no life in the brook.**

**Motion carries 9 opposed.**

**Article 38 passes.**

**Article 39:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to appropriate any additional Revenue Sharing funds, should such funds become available, to further reduce the 2015 property tax commitment. **A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Selectmen to appropriate any additional Revenue Sharing funds, should such funds become available, to further reduce the 2015 property tax commitment.**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Article 39 passes.**

Given under our hands on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2015:

Wesley F. Daniel  
Chairman

Donald L. Grinnell  
Selectman

Duane P. Vigue  
Selectman

Attest:  
Ann Dean, Town Clerk