

WARRANT FOR 2016 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 25, 2016, 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 26, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., then and there to act on Articles 3 through 42 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 a.m. by Town Clerk Ann Dean and Tom Johnston led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Town Clerk then called for nominations for moderator. A motion was made and seconded to nominate James Bowers who was the only nominee and then elected with 4 votes. The Town Clerk duly swore him into office and James appointed Thomas Ford as his deputy moderator.

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 Denise Hylton and Mary Anderson acted as election wardens. The polls were closed at 8PM by moderator James Bowers. Ballot clerks Carol Sloane, Mildred Melgard, Elizabeth Bettcher and Deborah Hill sorted and counted the ballots.

The moderator adjourned the meeting to 10 a.m. Saturday, March 26, 2016 at the Prescott School. Thomas Ford was sworn in as deputy moderator and Christopher Armstrong led the Pledge of Allegiance. Selectman Wes Daniel awarded Priscilla Packard the Spirit of America Unsung Hero Award.

Tom went on to announce the results of article 2.

The following is a list of votes cast: Total 339

Selectman/Assessor/Overseer of the Poor 3 year term:

Wesley Daniel:	207
Roy Garnett:	131
Blanks:	1

Selectman/Assessor/Overseer of the Poor 1 year term:

Thomas Johnston	184
Christopher Armstrong	145
Blanks:	10

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

Tom Ford requested nominations for seven (7) members and two (2) alternates to serve on the Budget Committee. Motions were made and seconded to nominate the following to serve as members on the budget committee: Donald L. Grinnell, David Martucci, Kathleen Ocean, Dorothy Sainio, Jesse Casas, David Williams and Hank Aho. Wendy Carr and James Kearney were nominated 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 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. Tom Ford called for discussion.

Merle Vanner asked what would happen if article voted down? Wes answered that they wouldn't be paid.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 5 passes

Article 6

To see if the town will vote to allow the select board to negotiate and pay wages at a pay rate not to exceed prevailing wage rates set by the Maine State Department of Transportation, for compensation of personnel labor costs pertaining to the Town of Washington roads crew, and to allow the Select board to negotiate the rate per hour cost for equipment used in maintaining public roads for the ensuing year.

Current prevailing labor rates set by the Maine Dept. of Transportation are as follows:

Highway Crew Supervisor \$21.91 hr.

Truck Drivers (2, 3 and 4 axles) \$ 14.73 hr.

Front End Loader Operators (class 3 classification) \$ 17.66 hr.

Current Labor Rates for the Town of Washington roads crew positions are as follows:

Road Foreman \$ 21.01 hr.

Regular Plow Truck Drivers \$ 16.21 hr.

Reserve Plow Truck Drivers \$ 14.44 hr.

Motion was made and seconded. The moderator called for discussion. Dorothy Sainio asked if hours are separated out for different duties such as driving a plow truck or loader. Wes answered that they are not separated out. Duane pointed out that we've been following DOT wage rates which are different from State wages. DOT wages are based on catastrophic events and are reimbursements to us from the State that are also federally subsidized. Our wages are based on DOT guidelines and the State wages are lower than the reimbursement wages paid by DOT. Dorothy says we still pay more than state wages according to the article. Duane said that she is correct and there is some belief that our truck drivers do more than just drive trucks but he disagrees and to his knowledge our drivers are not certified equipment drivers.

Dorothy asked for clarification on why are we paying 16.21 when state pays 14.73?

Variation are not accounted for and road crew could be doing things like mechanic work,

Dorothy reiterated that the article says pay up to State wages and it is not what we are doing.

Berkley said that state drivers get 13.34 per hour and that they load themselves. Wes pointed out that we do our own mechanic work. Jim Bowers asked if we are reducing wages for some drivers.

Berkley said that we shouldn't lower wages. Wes said that we were not dropping down wages.

Tom Johnston points out that Wes's sheet adds additional costs and benefits that aren't included on DOT's sheet that only reflects salary portion. Reggie Burns asked why reserve plow guys get \$2 less than regular plow drivers. Duane answered it is standard practice with about 20 towns but didn't know why. Reggie responded that reserve drivers should be paid the same as they still need to get out of bed in the middle of the night. Duane agreed. Guy Bourrie said warrant says that we are not to exceed and duties would need to be split in order to compare or otherwise we are exceeding the rates. Duane cited clarification was needed for this article and the wording was a suggestion of MMA to give the taxpayer a clearer idea of rates but believes the article needs work. Rick Linscott asked if we knew the cost per mile vs contracting the work out. Wes answered that we didn't know but we had compared our costs with other towns. He added that the auditor agreed that we were doing a good job with the roads and to continue doing what we're doing. Wes went on to say that a

few years ago the selectmen agreed to classify drivers as driver and loader operator combination and when this was done we are not going over the rate. Dave Martucci spoke to the road crew's efficiency and that our roads are in a much better shape than when roads were contracted out.

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 2016 annual budget during the period from January 1, 2017, to the date of the 2017 Annual Town Meeting.

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

Motion made and seconded.

Motion carries unanimously

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 2016 taxes will be due and payable on October 1, 2016)

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

Motion made and seconded. Karen Boynton asked what the rate was for the last two years. Ann Dean answered that it was 7%.

Motion carries unanimously

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%.

Motion made and seconded.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 9 passes.

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

Motion made and seconded.

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 for back taxes, interests, and costs. If the offer is not accepted in 60 days, the Selectmen shall dispose of the property by public auction or sealed bid. All net proceeds from any auction or sealed bid shall be placed in the town's road reserve account.

Motion made and seconded. Moderator called for discussion.

Dorothy Sainio made a motion to amend the article and leave out the "sealed bid" option. Motion

seconded. Peg Hobbs asked why sealed bid was added. Duane answered public auction may get bids going but sealed bids are generally more favorable than an open auction. Dave asked whether it would cost to hire auctioneer and if sealed bid would be less expensive. Wes answered that he didn't think it would because we don't have to hire a certified auctioneer. Carol Sloane asked if a sealed bid would be better option for people from away. Duane reiterated that he thought that sealed bids would bring in more interested people because they have nothing to base another bid on so could be thousands more. Deb Bocko asked how the public would be notified. Wes answered that a notice would be posted around town and in the paper. Wes said we used to do sealed bids. There was a question on whether notice would also be posted on the town website. Ann Dean responded that it would be posted on website. Beth Connor pointed out that public auction gives the option to know what others bid in case the property is really needed. Chris Lescoutx wanted to know if someone could put a bid in if they weren't present at auction. Wes responded that it would need to be voted on and might cause confusion and would need to be posted that way. Guy Bourrie responded that in the interest of transparency he would be voting in favor of the amendment. Beth Connor added that if a bid came from someone not present, the auctioneer can accept it as it is not a sealed bid. Cyd Zeigler wanted to know if this is an auction sale why someone couldn't present a bid to the auctioneer. Wes thought that it might need to be in the article to do that and if it is a left bid that it would probably work. Cyd sees no reason why we would need to add this to article or to attract people from away. Wes answered that our best interest is getting the tax money back and that we are not in the real estate business. Sharon Turner asked how would the decision be made if the full article were approved? Wes answered that it would be at the discretion of the select board. Dorothy said that we have always done this by public auction.

Near unanimous to pass amendment to remove sealed bid option.

Amended article carried 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.

Motion made and seconded.

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 \$5,000.00 or less under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

Motion made and seconded. Moderator called for discussion.

A question was asked if this meant that the selectmen could give it to their brother. Duane said that these items are put up for bid and a notice will be posted. Kathy Ocean asked about why the amount was raised from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Wes answered that it didn't take much to go over \$1,000 and referred to a recent used town plow truck sale. Deb Bocko asked where the money from the truck sale went. Wes answered that it went into the truck reserve account.

1 dissenting vote.

Article 13 passes.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the 2015 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.

2015 amount of refund: \$417.06.

Motion made and seconded.

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 2016 and 2017 for taxes not yet due or assessed and for no interest to accrue.

Motion made and seconded. Deputy Moderator called for discussion.

Diane Carlson asked where the interest goes. Treasurer Ann Dean answered the 1.25% interest earned on the checking account goes back into the general fund and is used to lower taxes for the following year. Dorothy Sainio asked why there were no stars next to the taxpayers who paid after December 31, 2015. Tax Collector Ann Dean replied that due to increased duties in 2015 she didn't have time to add stars next to tax club members or taxpayers who paid after December 31st.

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.

Motion made and seconded. Tom called for discussion.

Beth Connor stood up to say that she loves the Tax Club Payment Plan.

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.

Motion made and seconded. Moderator called for discussion.

A question was asked about why we need this article? Dave Martucci answered that many times we need to have authority to apply for grants. Deb Bocko asked what does Homeland Security cover? Tom Johnston answered that FEMA and Assistance to Firefighter grants were the most common.

Motion carries unanimously

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.

Motion made and seconded.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 18 passes.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to move the 2016 overlay, plus supplemental tax assessments and less any tax abatements, into the Road Reserve Account.

Motion made and seconded.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 19 passes.

Article 20:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$5206.36 to install a heat pump/cooling system in the Town Office.

Motion made and seconded. Tom called for discussion.

Dorothy Sainio asked why didn't we just get an air conditioning unit? Ann Dean answered that she spoke with one of the contractors who told her that the dual unit cost would not be much more to add the heat function. He also mentioned that the existing boiler will eventually need to be phased out or replaced. Dorothy commented that she didn't recommend heat pump as she spent the winter in a house with heat pumps and that they blew cold air.

Kit Lescoutx asked if the system is separate system from the library. Ann answered that is was separate from the library. Beth Connor asked if the boiler were phased out would it would affect the library? Wes explained that the town office has baseboard heat and that the library and Bryant Room have in floor heat. Bo Marks said library only has AC unit because the engineer told them that the heat option in the library would screw up each other's system & that the Bryant room only has radiant heat. He went on to say that discussions would need to be had with library before any decisions to phase out the boiler were made. Town is obligated to pay the heat according to the original grant terms. Dave Martucci who was on the original building committee, said terms of original grant have expired because it is beyond its 20 year term. He also said that the boiler was at the end of its 25 year expected life and that the boiler was never a good fit because it needed to be retrofitted into the existing heating system. He went on to say that the heat pump unit would take pressure off the aging boiler and maybe it would last a little longer. Janet asked if there other types of heat pumps and Ann Dean answered that the quotes were all based on the same unit and she didn't know the details of other units. Cyd Zeigler asked if there were more than one radiant zone. Wes answered that there were 2 zones. Deb Bocko asked if a study had been done to change whole system into one system so that the library will not be stuck later with a failed boiler. Duane said original reason for the article was because the town office is stifling. Sandy Bourrie asked if efficiency Maine grants had been utilized. Ann answered that Efficiency Maine Refunds were reflected in the estimates. Jesse Casas asked if the library had been consulted. Wes said we have not but we should talk to the library. Todd Bennett points out that office is to be cooled and the library should be consulted. He went on to say that a heat pump will probably not be enough to heat the town office. Jim Bowers agrees with Todd and says that his units have paid for themselves. Charlotte Henderson wanted to know what the process is and if we should form a committee to get more answers and have a special town meeting later? Kit Lescoutx pointed out that the article is about cooling the office. Guy Bourrie moved the question. Question is moved.

4 dissenting votes

Article 20 passes.

Article 21:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$175,000 from the Road Maintenance Account and the Local Roads Assistance Program (LRAP) Account for repair and repaving of the Hopkins Road and to allow the Board of Selectmen to determine the amount of funding to take from each account

Motion and second. Moderator called for discussion. Heather Halsey commented that she didn't want Hopkins Road paved. Lowell Freiman wanted to know when it was last paved. Wes answered over 10 years and that it is the closest road ready to be redone in the 10 year program. Lowell asked about going back to gravel as a cost saving. Wes pointed out the road would need to be dug up and the expense could be more. Lowell commented that speed and traffic will increase and the road would get degraded quickly. Duane said that the requirement to remove all asphalt is quite costly as the select board discovered after they asked the same question before Bill Luce Rd. was paved. He went on to say that the road would need to be brought up to current state standards and that the town could be held liable if it were not. Steve Ocean requested that the selectmen ask DOT to reevaluate the speed limit. Wes explained that a petition would need to be brought to the selectmen. Susan D'Amore asked if we were voting to pave the road this year. David Studer asked why the Hopkins Road was chosen and if the road survey showed that other roads needed it more. Wes pointed out that the road committee consists of two people who surveyed all but two roads and that the Hopkins Road was picked because it was most ready. Carole Sloane asked if we skipped a road and then it degraded would the town be liable if someone hit a pothole. Wes explained we have

24 hours to respond to a complaint. Kit Lacoustx asked if other traffic calming mechanisms could be used to address the problem of speeding vehicles. Duane Vigue answered that as a municipality we wouldn't want to put speed bumps in a public way. Duane said that the most effective way to address the problem would be to have road residents present the select board with a petition that they could then go to the DOT and ask for a study. Beth Connor does not want the road paved because tractor trailers cut through. Lisa Sharpe thinks the town should respect the road residents desire not to pave the road. Charles Vanner spoke to say that we are obligated as a town to maintain the road. Rick Kopishke asked what it would cost if we postpone paving for a few years. Wes pointed out it cost \$10,000 less last year because fuel costs were down but costs could also go up. Guy Bourrie commented that signs don't slow people down and that the selectmen have already prepared the road. He went on to say that it is our obligation to maintain the road. Peg Hobbs pointed out that there is nowhere to walk and that the selectmen should work to make the town more pedestrian friendly. Lisa Sharpe asked if we voted Hopkins down is there a possibility to vote on another road? Wes answered that another decision on the road would need to be made and a special town meeting would need to be had. Bid packages would be delayed and the process made longer. Merton Moore said that our neighbors use these roads. Jesse Casas stated that the roads need to be maintained and mentioned the selectmen's existing paving policy. He also pointed out that fuel prices are down so to put it off would cost us even more. Dorothy asked is we could amend the article to put a speed limit on the road. Wes Daniel said that is State's responsibility. Sandy Bourrie asked about the language of the petition. Wes replied that he wasn't sure. Wes moved question and seconded. Question moved.

8 dissenting votes.

Article 21 passes

Break.

Meeting reconvened at 12 noon. Tom Ford called for a vote to allow Chris Johnson and Tri County Solid Waste manager Dave Stanley to speak which passed unanimously.

State Senator Chris Johnson reminded us that he can be contacted if we have any issues.

Article 22:

To see if the town will vote to rescind the 2003 vote directing the Selectman to enforce the "hand carry only" for launching of boats at the Washington Pond boat landing by restricting access to trailer mounted boats.

Explanation:

The Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has informed the Selectmen that regulations set forth will not allow them to continue to stock the pond with any species of fish if access is restricted to hand carry only. This is a state wide regulation. The effect that this will have on the fishery is absolute. According to the IFW representative, stocked Brook Trout will disappear within the current year, stocked Brown Trout will disappear within 3 years.

Motion made and seconded. Moderator called for discussion.

Dorothy said that the state said we could have carry on only. Why has this changed? Wes answered that in 1974 it was developed & maintained by the town. The State was interested in purchasing another piece of property on the lake for a boat launch but it never happened. Wes advised to vote the article down and see if the State could look into purchasing a different property. Dorothy pointed out that boats could come in and contaminate the lake. Todd asked if the launch area is handled by IFW. He was concerned that if the boulders were removed whether it would violate another State department's rules. Wes replied that we have no written authorization from DEP or the Department of Conservation to move the rocks and only been told by IFW that it's OK but we have nothing in writing. Guy asked if state will no longer stock. Duane pointed out even though the law was changed in 2003 that it has been stocked every year. The selectmen presented the article to bring forward the new information that the State would no longer stock unless the rocks were moved. Guy Bourrie asked if the town was looking at any other properties and Wes answered that we were not. Dave Martucci who was a selectman in the 90's believes that the deed to property says hand carry only and that the title should be looked at before moving the boulders. Ray Griffin said boulders limit who can & can't & would like better access. Pat Medeika asked if the taxpayers pay for the fish? Charlotte answered that trout stocking is paid for by fishing licenses and that IFW

decided to enforce the rule because there is not equal access for all. Medolark and Medomak Camps don't want traffic on pond to increase because it could interfere with their programs. State fisheries biologist said it might be possible to widen the rocks enough so they don't block someone and not change the intent. However, if rocks are not moved, the policy states no fish stocking. Robert Marks gave legal opinion in 1999 that it was a condition that ran with the land and if violated could result in the Dept of Conservation taking the boat landing back. This article if passed would put us in jeopardy of losing the boat landing. He went on to say that the only way out would be to get a release from the Dept of Conservation to allow more than hand-carry boats. Rick Kopishke said that the money to stock the pond comes from IFW. He says that it is unfair for people with small boats not to get onto the pond when he pays for his fishing license to fish. He pointed out that the water is shallow and the parking is not big enough for large boat trailers. Rick was concerned that not stocking the pond could negatively affect the yearly fishing derby. Janet Martucci likes the hand carry only because large boats can drown loon chicks. Kit Lascoutx says it seems to be a bullying tactic by IFW. Rick Bouchard suggests that we talk to the contact people with IFW & DEP to be sure that they are all in agreement. Sandy Bourrie stated that the ecological integrity of lake should be our first priority. Jesse Casas says we as a town might run the risk of losing the boat landing if this article passes. This has been discussed numerous times and our hands are tied. Mrs Griffin says that she should be able to get their boat into water because they are taxpayers. Guy Bourrie, doesn't see it as a threat from IFW. Deb Bocko said that it still doesn't address that it is a deed restricted access so it is a moot point.

Motion to move the question. Question is moved by a majority.

3 in favor. Record shows a substantial number of no votes.

Article 22 fails to pass.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the 2015-2016 updated State Model Floodplain Management Ordinance.

Motion made and seconded. No discussion.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 23 passes.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Land Use Ordinance by adding a section regarding Solar Arrays.

Motion made and seconded. Moderator Tom Ford pointed out that because we have a Land Use Ordinance and in order to legally pass amendments to that ordinance, the Planning Board must hold a public hearing and that process was inadvertently left out.

Dave spoke as chairman of the Solar Committee, apologized and made a motion to direct to the planning board. Motion seconded. Moderator called for discussion. Carol Sloane asked about the moratorium expiration and Wes replied that it is almost up. Tom Ford explained if brought to court, the town could be successfully challenged.

Dave concurred with Tom. Motion was made to direct provisions of Article 24 and 25 to the planning board to hold a public hearing as soon as possible and to schedule a special town meeting. Motion seconded. Sandy Bourrie clarified that we have no authority to extend the moratorium. Jesse Casas who is on the planning board pointed out that the planning board can address this issue in a timely manner as they meet the second Tuesday of each month. Tom referred to MMA handbook requirements for rules. David restated his proposal.

Proposal to deal with articles 24 & 25 carried unanimously.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Land Use Ordinance by adding a section regarding Wind and Antenna Arrays

Refer to Article 24

Article 26:

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 9.1, Duration, of the Tri-County Solid Waste Management Organization Interlocal Cooperative Agreement by extending the 25-year term of the original Agreement, which would cause the Agreement to expire on October 17, 2016, for an additional and continuous 18-year term expiring on October 17, 2034 and to provide that all provisions of the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement, as amended, remain in full force and effect.

Footnote: This Article must be voted on as written with no amendments.

Motion made and seconded. Moderator called for discussion. Dave Stanley, TCSWMO manager recommends that this article passes. He said that our contract with PERC is expiring and there were more than 2 options to go with and that any decisions made would be transparent. Dave went on to say that though 18 years seems like a long contract, it would allow us to get to 2018 and then commit to a 15 year period after that. Ken Mills asked what the significance of 2018 is. Dave explained PERC contract expires 2018 & this will give us a chance to look at other options by the Tri County board. Lisa Sharpe asked if we pass this will we be assured that we will continue to have the recycling center. Dave answered yes and that it is a high priority. Leo Karczewski, a Tri County board member, remarked that all towns may not sign up and if that happens it changes the assessment. Dave answered that it would not change the town's assessment for the 2016 budget. Peg Hobbs asked when was the decision made to go with PERC. Dave says that PERC was the only option when TCSWMO opened but the question of where future waste will go is a board decision. Peg pointed out that larger municipalities are going with the Hampden facility and she is concerned that PERC is an old facility. Dave says there are more than a couple of options that the board is looking into. Dave explained that the only thing that we were voting on today was whether the Town of Washington will remain a member of Tri County Solid Waste.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 26 passes.

Article 27

To see if the town will authorize the select board to establish the position of "town administrator" to work part-time a minimum of 22 hours per week, performing duties deemed necessary by the select board, and to further see if the town will raise and appropriate \$28,000.00 for said position.

Explanation: partial funding for the position would come from a \$5000.00 reduction to each select board position and \$13,000.00 raised and appropriated from property taxes.

duties shall include but are not limited to : budget preparation and monitoring, weekly select board agenda, warrant preparation, general assistance administrator, general town office supervision, yearly review and evaluations of all town employees and other duties assigned by the select board.

Motion made and seconded. Moderator called for discussion. Wes Daniel said is a good idea but not good idea to jump into today and not enough thought has gone into it. He went on to say that the two people who were elected today will carry the workload forward and do more study. He also said that people other than selectmen need to get involved and asked Tom Ford for information about how the Town of Hope went about making the decision to hire an administrator. Tom was a Selectman in Hope in the 1990s and operated the same as Washington with a three member select board. They formed a Town Government Study Committee & came up with increasing the board from three to five and to hire a town administrator. Tom said it was right decision and he can't imagine the responsibility in 2016 that falls on the select board. He will give us Hope's written report to share with the committee.

Dave Martucci made a motion to amend the article to direct the select board to form a committee to study the need for a town administrator position before the town. Motion was seconded and moderator called for discussion. Wes asked Dave Martucci if there would be a limit to the number of people on the committee and Dave answered that he wouldn't limit the number and went on to ask Dave to include the term of town government study committee in the amended article. Dave restated his motion to the amendment to direct the select board to form a Town Government Study Committee and to report back to town meeting. Motion seconded. Moderator called for discussion on amendment to the main motion made by Dave Martucci. Lisa Sharpe asked if there were a time frame for a meeting and if a special town meeting would be held. Dave Martucci said that committee would make recommendations to vote on at town meeting. Dave said that selectmen

would probably bring recommendations to annual town meeting to be voted on which he would recommend but it's ultimately up to the selectmen to decide. Dave Williams asked if we can add to the amendment to change the language in the motion to annual town meeting? Dave Martucci says a town meeting is a town meeting and legally we cannot tell selectmen when to hold a town meeting. The selectmen have full authority and legally only need to hold one town meeting a year and it is up to them to decide when a town meeting is held. Jesse Casas is in favor of the amendment and would personally like to see the discussion to take place at next year's annual town meeting. Dave Martucci also recommends waiting to annual town meeting. Todd Bennett stated that the people have the say and the selectmen may or may not listen but by at least annual town meeting. The moderator called for a vote on the amendment. To direct the selectmen to form a Town Government Study Committee and to report back to town meeting.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Moderator called for a vote on the amended article. To direct the selectmen to form a Town Government Study Committee and to report back to town meeting.

Article 27 carries unanimously.

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the following General Fund revenues to be applied toward the 2016 property tax commitment, thereby decreasing the 2016 tax commitment by \$396,400.00.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend:

Excise Tax Revenue	220,000.00
Revenue Sharing	66,000.00
Tree Growth Reimbursement	3,500.00
Building Permits	1,300.00
Mining Permits and Inspections	3,000.00
Interest on Overdue Taxes	12,000.00
Veterans Reimbursement	1,400.00
Other Town Fees Collected	9,200.00
Unexpended 2015 Appropriations	55,000.00
Undesignated Fund Balance	20,000.00
General Fund Interest	<u>5,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 396,400.00

Motion made and seconded.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 28 passes.

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$ 230,762.00 from property taxation for 2016 Knox County, Tri-County Solid Waste Management Organization and Union Ambulance assessments.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

Knox County Tax Assessment	\$141,773.00
Knox County Communications	40,210.00
Tri-County Solid Waste	36,313.00
Union Ambulance	<u>12,466.00</u>
	\$230,762.00

Motion made and seconded.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 29 passes.

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$53,350.00 from property taxation for General Government Operations.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

Legal Fees		\$15,000.00
Administration		\$38,350.00
Advertising	500.00	
Audit of Town Books	5,000.00	
Computer Annual Fees	10,000.00	
Computer Tech Support	750.00	
MMA Dues	3,000.00	
Mileage	1,500.00	
Money Order Fees	400.00	
Office Equipment	4,000.00	
Office Supplies	3,000.00	
Postage	2,000.00	
Printing and Photocopies	200.00	
Selectmen Discretionary Fund	500.00	
Tax Maps	1,000.00	
Tax Billing	1,500.00	
Town Report Printing	3,000.00	
Workshops and Training	<u>2,000.00</u>	
Subtotal	\$ 38,350.00	
		Total \$53,350.00

Motion made and seconded. Moderator called for discussion.

A question was asked about the why the Office equipment line went up \$500 over last year. Treasurer Ann Dean explained that copy machine rental is almost \$2000 per year and that there is a need to replace one office computer.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 30 passes.

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$29,462.00 from property taxation for Insurance.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

MMA Insurance Risk Pool		\$ 18,000.00
Unemployment Insurance		1,508.00
Worker's Compensation Premium		8,954.00
Volunteer Insurance		200.00
Firefighter Accident Insurance		<u>800.00</u>
		Total \$ 29,462.00

Motion made and seconded.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 31 passes.

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$164,985.00 from property taxation for Salaries, Stipends, Employee Health Insurance, and Payroll Expenses.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

Salaries and Stipends		\$120,985.00
Selectmen (3)	19,500.00	
Secretary - Selectmen	750.00	
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	22,763.00	
Treasurer	12,772.00	

Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Treasurer	22,000.00
Registrar of Voters	1,500.00
Ballot Clerks	1,500.00
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	1,250.00
Secretary – Appeals Board	350.00
Assessor's Agent	4,500.00
Animal Control Officer	2000.00
Deputy Animal Control Officer	2000.00
Code Enforcement Officer	15,000.00
Constable	100.00
Moderator of open March town meeting	200.00
School Board Member Stipend (2)	1,000.00
Custodial Services	<u>1,500.00</u>
Sub-total	\$120,985.00

Town Portion of Employee Health Insurance	27,000.00
FICA Payroll Expenses	<u>17,000.00</u>
Total	\$164,985.00

Motion made and seconded. Moderator called for discussion.

A question was asked about who the Health Officer was and what were their responsibilities. Wes Daniel answered that Brian Alves, who is a nurse, is our Health Officer and takes care of epidemics or other type issues. Selectman Duane Vigue clarified that he would deal with situations that may cause concern to public health.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 32 passes.

Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$381,752.00 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
Plow Truck Payment	20,184.00
Truck Fuel	15,000.00
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	3,000.00
Loader, Backhoe & Chipper Maintenance	7,500.00
Garage Mortgage	12,968.00
Garage Utilities	4,000.00
Garage Maintenance	2,000.00
Road Maintenance Labor	100,000.00
Equipment Rental	13,000.00
Screening Winter Sand	13,000.00

Road Salt	25,000.00
E911 and Road Signs	1,000.00
Paving of Hopkins Road	125,000.00
Driver OSHA and DOT Screening and Testing	<u>600.00</u>

Total \$ 381,752.00

Todd Bennett asked why the paving of Hopkins Road is voted on twice. Chris Jensen answered that the first vote only gave authority to pave and this one appropriates the money to do it. He went on to say that if the first vote rejected that authority then this article would have been needed to be changed. Heather Halsey motioned to amend to remove \$125,000. Motion not seconded. Wes explained truck names & how figures are only estimates.

1 dissenting vote.

Article 33 passes.

Article 34: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,000.00 from property taxation for General Assistance.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

General Assistance	3,000.00
--------------------	----------

Motion made and seconded.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 34 passes.

Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$46,048.00 from property taxation for Public Safety.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

Fire Department General Support	10,500.00
Fire Department Equipment	10,000.00
Firefighter Training	2,000.00
Firefighter Physicals	2,500.00
Fire Truck Loan Payment	18,548.00
Hose Testing	<u>2,500.00</u>
Total	\$46,048.00

Motion made and seconded.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 35 passes.

Article 36: 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

Motion made and seconded.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 36 passes.

Article 37: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500.00 from property taxation for Boards and Committees.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

Conservation and Parks Committee	300.00
Planning Board Expense	300.00
Midcoast Regional Planning Commission	600.00
Comprehensive Plan Review Committee	<u>300.00</u>
Total	\$1500.00

Motion and seconded. Moderator called for discussion.

Chris Jenson asked if we needed to amend the article to add the proposed Town Government committee. Moderator explained that we could not amend the article to a higher amount but would expect that the committee would be able to complete the task pro bono.

Motion passes unanimously.

Article 37 passes.

Article 38: 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:

Town Record Preservation Fund	3,000.00
Road Maintenance Truck Fund	<u>10,000.00</u>
Total	\$13,000.00

Motion and seconded. Moderator called for discussion.

Lisa Sharpe asked about the Road Maintenance Truck Fund. Wes answered that it was to replace a truck in future years.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 38 passes.

Article 39: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,426.00 from property taxation for Miscellaneous Accounts.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory line

Mid-Coast Humane Society	1,527.00
Flags for Veterans Graves and Town Parks	750.00
Damariscotta Lake Watershed Dues	50.00
Washington Watershed Association Lake Testing	500.00
Social Agencies and Concerns	7599.00
Coastal Trans	750.00
New Hope for Women	750.00
Broadreach Services	750.00
Washington Food Bank	2,000.00
Spectrum Generations	920.00
Penquis Community Action Program	929.00
Washington Community Scholarship	1,500.00
Sub-total	7,599.00
Total	\$10,426.00

Motion and seconded. Moderator called for discussion.

Jim Bowers pointed out that these are only advisory lines. Dorothy Sainio motioned to amend the

article to remove \$750 from the Coastal Trans line as it was recently announced that they were closing and change total to \$9676.00. A question was asked whether the money appropriated to Coastal Trans could be given to a service that takes its place. Wes answered no and Duane added that a petition is required.

Moderator called for a vote on Dorothy's amendment to the article.

1 dissenting vote on amended article.

Moderator called for vote on amended article.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 39 passes.

Article 40: To see if the town will vote to appropriate \$75,127.00 from the 2016 Local Roads Assistance Program (LRAP) for road improvement.

Selectmen recommend as advisory lines:

Paving of Town Roads		\$ 50,000.00
Capital Improvement of Town Roads		<u>25,127.00</u>
	Total	\$ 75,127.00

Motion made and seconded.

1 dissenting vote

Article 40 passes.

Article 41: To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to purchase a new Fire Pumper Truck with a cost not to exceed \$325,000 minus any grants that could be applied to the cost of the truck 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:

1. Total Town Indebtedness

a. Total Mortgage - Municipal Garage (11 years remaining)	\$ 92,473.78
b. Total Fire Truck Loan - "Tanker 1" (2016 Final payment)	18,547.17
c. Total Plow Truck (8 year loan)	<u>143,766.00</u>
Total Indebtedness	\$254,786.95

2. Costs

a. New Fire Pumper Truck	\$325,000.00
b. New Fire Pumper Truck Interest (12 year loan @ 3.10%)	<u>67,184.00</u>
Total Payment	\$392,184.00

Ann Dean, Town Treasurer

Motion made and seconded. Karen Boynton asked if the truck was new new or new used. Fire Chief Tom Johnston answered new new. Lisa Sharpe mentioned that she read in the Fire Department newsletter that we did not get the grant and had concerns about replacing a plow truck and fire truck. She asked if we could get something used but workable. Tom answered that it was a 3 year project to replace the truck because he was looking for a gem and the town had just replaced a town plow truck. He went on to say that the life of a fire truck is 30 years and that the current truck is 34 years old, not reliable or up to standard. Tom went on to explain that used equipment needs to fit physically and to do the job that we need it to do and that it would cost \$180-\$190,000 for a 10 year old truck. A 20 year old truck would be about \$100,000 or \$10,000 per year per life of that truck. Fire departments get rid of trucks because they no longer fit or that it costs too much to keep in service. Tom advised that we didn't get through the initial stage of the FEMA grant that is

the only grant program for fire trucks and has many more requests than dollars. Kathy Ocean asked if there was another fire pumper truck in the mutual aid system. Tom responded that the Town of Union has cut back on equipment that is not considered safe. He went on to say that because of lack of volunteers and lack of responses that we don't always get what we need from other towns. Our newest truck is 13 years old and we will spend as much or more money in the long run than if we buy a new truck today. Tom also pointed out that it is the townspeople's decision and he will support that decision. Guy Bourrie asked if not having second truck would affect our rating? Tom answered that our ISO rating could be changed and cost policy holders more money. He advised that we inform our house insurance policy holders of the ISO rating going from a 9 to a 6 as many homeowners have received lower rates because of the improved ratings on the fire portion of their policy. Tom did point out that some insurance companies like State Farm do not use the ratings but that the value of the rating would offset the cost of the truck. Eli Berry asked that we don't purchase a lime green truck. Tom will put old truck on market and we will be lucky to get scrap prices for it. Denise Hylton asked how long before it would need to be replaced. Tom answered 18 yrs to replace pumper and that the loan payment will be no more than the tanker & refurbishing from years past.

Motion made and seconded.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 41 passes.

Article 42: 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 2016 property tax commitment.

Motion made and seconded.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 42 passes

Before closing the meeting Tom Ford acknowledged Duane Vigue's efforts as selectmen for the Town.

Given under our hands on this 24th day of February, 2016:

Wesley F. Daniel
Chairman

Duane P. Vigue
Selectman

Berkley Linscott
Selectman

1.

Attest:

Ann Dean, Town Clerk