

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN OF SALEM

TOWN MEETING 2025

DELIBERATIVE SESSION

Salem High School

Saturday, February 8, 2025

9:00 A.M.

1 IN ATTENDANCE:

2 Moderator - Bernard Campbell

3 Town Council:

4 Joe Sweeney, Chairman

5 Cathy Stacey

6 Robert Bryant

7 Keith Stramaglia

8 Jeff Hatch

9 Lisa Withrow

10 Bonnie Wright

11 Paul Pelletier

12 Jeff Boyer - Budget Committee Chairman

13 Articles Under Discussion

14 Article 2.....7

15 Article 3.....8

16 Article 4.....14

17 Article 5.....12,15

18 Article 6.....16

19 Article 7.....18

20 Article 8.....20,36

21 Article 9.....21

22 Article 10.....22

23 Article 11.....26

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DELIBERATIVE SESSION

3 BERNIE CAMPBELL, MODERATOR: Good Morning. It is now 9AM on
4 February 8th and I am calling this Town Deliberative Session to order.
5 My name is Bernie Campbell, and it is my honor and pleasure to serve
6 as Town Moderator this morning. As we begin, I would like to ask us
7 to please rise and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

8 [Pledge of Allegiance]

9 Thank you. As we begin this morning I have been asked, and it is
10 entirely appropriate that we would pause for a moment of reflection
11 and silence in the memory of longtime town resident Ed DeClercq who
12 passed away this week. So, if you would join me in a brief moment of
13 reflection.

14 Thank you. Mr. DeClercq served many times on various committees and
15 boards around this town, and it is entirely proper that we remember
16 him this morning and keep his family in our thoughts. As we begin this
17 morning, ah, this is a Deliberative Session. Salem is an SB2 town
18 meaning we will debate, discuss, hear presentations on, possibly amend
19 various Warrant Articles and then we will move them to the ballot for
20 inclusion to be voted upon by the entire town on the March 11th
21 municipal election. We will not be voting on the Articles themselves
22 this morning although they may be amended.

23 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: I'd like to review the rules of the Meeting
24 this morning.

25 1. Food or drink is not allowed in the meeting place. Only water is
26 allowed.

27 2. Non-resident adult attendees must sit in the non-voting section
28 over there and they shall refrain from participating in any of the
29 voting. Resident adult attendees with minors in attendance shall be
30 responsible for ensuring that the minors do not participate in any
31 voting while in attendance.

1 3. All questions must be directed through the Moderator. Speakers will
2 conduct themselves with civility. Questions or comments should not be
3 of a personal nature. Every eligible member of the assembly has a
4 right to speak on any debatable subject. Speaking for a second time
5 is only allowed after all others have spoken for a first time.

6 4. "Limiting Debate" will be interpreted as permitting not more than
7 two additional persons to speak from each side. The motion must be
8 made before speaking. Requires a second and a 2/3 vote and there is
9 no discussion on the question of whether or not to limit the debate.

10 5. Relative to the Town Council, unless a Councilor states they are
11 speaking on behalf of the entire Council assume they are speaking from
12 their own perspective.

13 6. "Calling the Question" ends debate immediately. Requires a second
14 and a 2/3 vote and the motion is not debatable.

15 Voting

16 1. Unless otherwise noted, votes shall be taken via voice vote.

17 2. If, after a voice vote, two meeting members request a standing
18 count then a standing count shall be taken. If the Moderator cannot
19 determine the outcome of a voice vote, then the Moderator can ask for
20 a standing vote.

21 3. Requests for a secret ballot on any amendment will only be accepted
22 after a motion to amend is on the floor. The secret ballot will be
23 for that motion only. A secret ballot requires five voter signatures.
24 After a vote, other than by ballot, if seven or more voters question
25 the Moderator's declaration and request a secret ballot before any
26 other business has begun, the vote will be retaken by secret ballot.

27 Referring Articles to the Ballot

28 1. If no amendments are offered on an Article, the Moderator will
29 refer the article as printed on the Warrant to the Town Clerk for
30 inclusion on the ballot to be voted upon March 11, 2025.

31 2. If an Article is amended and absent any other further amendments

1 then the Moderator will refer it as amended to the Town Clerk for
2 inclusion on the ballot to be voted upon March 11, 2025.

3 3. A motion to restrict reconsideration will have the effect of ending
4 further debate and the articles will be moved onto the ballot in their
5 current form as printed or amended. This is done one Article at a
6 time. That needs to be moved and seconded. It is a majority vote and
7 is debatable. The Warrant Article could not be brought up later in
8 the meeting.

9 Amendments

10 1. Amendments must be in writing. A second is required. Only one
11 amendment at a time shall be discussed. If you could please bring
12 it up when you propose it. I already have one amendment.

13 2. There can be no "language" amendments to the operating budget
14 article. The PROPOSED amount can be amended. The DEFAULT amount cannot
15 be amended.

16 3. All other articles except Charter Amendments can be amended in
17 language and in amount. However, amending the language of warrant
18 articles cannot eliminate the subject matter of the article. Charter
19 Amendments cannot be amended since they have been approved by the NH
20 Attorney General's Office and the Secretary of State. NOTE: Collective
21 Bargaining Agreements (CBAs), if amended, could lead to the reopening
22 of negotiations by either party, if they wish, based on current law.

23 4. Articles "prescribed by law" cannot be amended.

24 5. This is your meeting and therefore the collective body can overrule
25 the Moderator.

26 Before we move forward, I do have a list of non-residents that need
27 to be admitted to this meeting. I have a list including:

28 Joseph Devine, the Town Manager

29 Tom Giarrosso and Sean Fichera from SCTV

30 Molly Derrig, who represents Salem School District and manages the

1 facility we are sitting in.
2 Matt Tylus from FOD (Field of Dreams)
3 Jeremiah Lamson, the Recording Secretary
4 Stuart Ormsbee from Colonial Power Group
5 Mike Courtney, the Attorney. I'm sorry I should have known that.
6 Ruth Marie Kay, The Upper Room
7 Cindy Kenerson, Assistant Finance Director
8 Nicole McGee, Finance Director
9 Craig Lemire, Fire Chief
10 Crayton Brubaker, Community Development Program Manager
11 Kennett Colby, Assistant Fire Chief
12 Michael Galipeau, Deputy Fire Chief
13 Laura Stevens

14 Without objection, we'll admit those nonresidents to our meeting.

15 No objections. We have nineteen Warrant Articles to get through this
16 morning. I'm hoping that we will move this through very quickly.
17 Article 1 is the election of officers therefore not debatable, and we
18 will move that directly to the ballot on March 11th to choose the
19 officers of the Town for the coming year. And so, we will move directly
20 on to Article 2.

21 **Article 2: Charter Amendment 1**

22 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Shall the Town of Salem approve Charter
23 Amendment 1 below relative to amending Section 3.2 of the Charter by
24 clarifying the timeline for the Town Council's organizational meeting?

25 The proposed amendment relates to Section 3.2 of the Town Charter
26 by specifying that the Town Council's organizational meeting shall
27 occur within ten (10) calendar days following the certification of
28 the annual town election results. The amendment further clarifies the
29 timeline for the Councilors to take their oaths of office, adopt

1 rules, and conduct business required by law or ordinance. This is with
2 recommendation of the Town Council. To move the Article, I recognize
3 Chairman Sweeney.

4 CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: I move Article 2.

5 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Is there a second?

6 COUNCILOR BRYANT: Second.

7 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Seconded by Mr. Bryant. To speak to the
8 Article, Mr. Sweeney.

9 CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: The Article really does summarize itself quite
10 well. This is just to allow us to make sure that as the election
11 results are certified, that ten-day window for the Town Council to
12 sit together and have its organizational meeting is held. So, it's
13 just changing it from the end of the election to the certification.

14 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Are there any questions on Article 2? Seeing
15 none, I will refer the Article as printed on the Warrant to the Town
16 Clerk for inclusion on the ballot to be voted upon March 11, 2025.

17 **Article 3: Charter Amendment 2**

18 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Shall the Town of Salem approve Charter
19 Amendment 2 below relative to amending Section 3.3.1 of the Charter
20 to clarify the residency qualifications for Town Council candidates
21 and further create a new Section 3.3.5 requiring candidates to file a
22 declaration of candidacy form?

23 The proposed amendment relates to Section 3.3.1 of the Town
24 Charter by clarifying the qualifications for candidates running for
25 the office of Town Councilor. The amendment removes the section
26 requiring the candidate to be a resident of Town for at least one (1)
27 calendar year but makes it necessary for them to be a registered voter
28 of the town per RSA 669:19. Additionally, the amendment incorporates
29 language consistent with state law requiring candidates to file a
30 formal "declaration of candidacy" as part of their eligibility for
31 office. This is voted by the Town Council with recommendation. To move

1 the Article Mr. Sweeney.

2 CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: I move Article 3 to the ballot as presented.

3 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Is there a second?

4 COUNCILOR BRYANT: Second.

5 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Seconded by Councilor Bryant. To speak to
6 the Article, Mr. Sweeney.

7 CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: Thank you very much Mr. Moderator. Again, the
8 Charter Amendments do really describe themselves in what they are
9 written as. This is an area of the Charter that had a lot of gray area
10 and gray space in terms of what one year before the filing, before
11 the election really did define by if it was collectively or if it was
12 over the course of many years that they could add up. And just a
13 number of gray areas and the confusion from different attorneys that
14 came to speak at it, the Attorney General's Office. The enforceability
15 of it. The Secretary of State's Office interpretation of it. So, this
16 was brought forward in order to, just to clarify the Charter and make
17 it so that the Town was in a stronger position with the Charter
18 adoption.

19 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Sweeney. Speaking, Ma'am.

20 DONNA LORANGER, 28 PLAY CAMP ROAD: I was on the Charter Commission
21 when all of this was discussed. My, I have a couple of questions. The
22 first question is what would cause you to even look at this when you
23 look at the New Hampshire Representatives and the New Hampshire State
24 Senate requirements for running for office where they have to live,
25 you know, here over a year and with the Senate it's two years. So,
26 I'm not really sure why you would even pick this type of topic. And
27 does this mean that if you tie it with the other amendment that says
28 you're not going to follow any type of reporting on financing so you
29 can have someone come in here a month before you have to file and then
30 not report any of their finances. Because if these two amendments
31 pass, that's what you're allowing. And I just don't understand why

1 you would want to do something like that when this whole thing about
2 Charter Commission was about transparency back to the voters. So, I'm
3 really concerned that you would even put this in here unless you had
4 some mitigating experience where it's like, you know, this is so bad
5 that we need to change it and remove this residency requirement. So,
6 I'm really concerned about where this is going and how you're picking
7 bits and pieces out. I understand the Ethics Board, oh and by the way
8 I am on the Ethics Board, so I don't understand. You know, I understand
9 fixing ethics and that part where there was some, you know, textural
10 thing that you needed to change. But this particular item, I don't
11 really understand why you would lessen the requirement of being as
12 much of a resident that you can represent Salem in Town Government.
13 Thank you very much.

14 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Ms. Loranger. There was a question
15 there so I'll look to the Town Council. Mr. Sweeney.

16 CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: So, I'll speak also as a member of the Charter
17 Commission. I think when we wrote that language, we imported it from
18 another town that had it. Simply when we talked with the Attorney
19 General's Office, talked to the Secretary of State's Office, as it is
20 currently in our Charter, it's not an enforceable section of the
21 Charter where we can actually. And the way it defined what a resident
22 was for the year prior, and I say year prior, but it doesn't specify
23 that it was the year prior to the election. So it could have been a
24 combination of years that add up to a year of residency so there is
25 general confusion currently in the Charter and this is just seeking
26 to clean it up.

27 MS. LORANGER: So, why wouldn't, thank you Mr. Sweeney for your
28 answer. What I don't understand is why wouldn't you make it more
29 stringent and clarify that it has to be a year straight as opposed
30 to, you know, four years ago I lived here for six months. Now I live
31 here six months now. Things change. So, I don't really understand,
32 and I don't think you really understand that you've just unlocked the
33 door for future issues. And I'm really concerned about that, and so

1 should you.

2 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Miss Loranger. I recognize the
3 next person at the microphone. Yes, over here.

4 KELLY MOSS, 9 PARK AVENUE: You had said when you talked to the
5 Attorney General, they expressed confusion with it. Can I just
6 clarify, did they say it was against the State law for us to have a
7 residency requirement or just that our language wasn't good enough?

8 CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: The language is the answer.

9 MS. MOSS: Okay, then I would say, you know again as a member of
10 the Charter Commission myself, that this was intended, and we all
11 discussed, to prevent outside influence from, you know, coming in
12 because we want our town to be run by our residents. And that we
13 should put the effort in to clarify the language instead of simply
14 removing it. It seems like the easy way out of, you know, we didn't
15 write it correctly. Let's write it correctly instead of just removing
16 it. Thank you.

17 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Over here.

18 JAMIE THORNOCK, 5 BROOKDALE ROAD: I just want to say this is
19 Salem and we know how this works. We're not going to be putting people
20 in who have just moved in. I trust that the voters and their name
21 recognition actually matters here. And we have so many other avenues.
22 You actually get to go out and you get to interview or put your
23 information out through SCTV. And if somebody wants to come in and
24 try to run for a position and they have no stake in the game, people
25 are going to know. So, this isn't a bad idea. This actually just opens
26 it up for us to get to know what's out there. But I will also say that
27 if you want it amended, put an amendment in to it to make the wording
28 better.

29 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Charter amendments cannot be amended by the
30 Deliberative Body because they have to be approved by the Secretary
31 of State's Office.

1 MELISSA SORCINELLI, 3 DARRYL LANE: Good morning. I really have
2 nothing profound to say except to go on the record as saying I
3 absolutely do not support anything that will not require a candidate
4 to be here for at least one year. So, for whatever weight my comment
5 has, that's what it is. Remember it on March 11th.

6 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Seeing no one further rise, I will
7 refer Article 4, Charter Amendment 3, as printed on the Warrant to
8 the Town Clerk for inclusion on the ballot to be voted upon March 11,
9 2025. Moving on to Article 5, Charter Amendment 4.

10 **Article 5: Charter Amendment 4**

11 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Shall the Town of Salem approve Charter
12 Amendment 4 below relative to deleting §2.10 of the Charter regarding
13 campaign finance reporting?

14 This amendment relates to §2.10 of the Town Charter, which
15 requires the Town Council to adopt a Town Ordinance mandating campaign
16 finance reporting for candidates and interest groups participating in
17 municipal elections. The proposed amendment deletes §2.10 entirely
18 from the Charter. This is voted by the Town Council with
19 recommendation. To move the Article, Chairman Sweeney.

20 CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. I move Article 4 as
21 presented.

22 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Is there a second?

23 COUNCILOR WITHROW: Second.

24 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Seconded by Ms. Withrow. To speak to the
25 Article, Mr. Sweeney.

26 CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: Thank you, thank you. This Article is the one
27 that was previously referenced that removes the campaign finance
28 reporting requirement that was laid out in the Charter. As a Town
29 Councilor and before as a member of the Charter Commission, the
30 campaign finance reporting requirement was put into the Charter by
31 the Charter Commission. The nine of us at the time could not develop

1 and could not agree upon the actual vehicle and the way that that
2 finance reporting system should look so we put it in the Charter
3 requiring the Town Council adopts the provisions within a year of the
4 Charter passing. This Town Council was also unable to come to an
5 agreement as to what that sort of campaign finance reporting system
6 should look like. So, this is being proposed to remove the campaign
7 finance requirement from the Town Charter so that there's no. We're
8 unable to build a system that works for the Town. This would clarify
9 the Charter so that we can take that requirement out of it because
10 there's really, depending on what other communities do, there's no
11 town that has this sort of policy in effect for town offices. There
12 are cities that have city campaign finance reporting deadlines, but
13 there's no towns in New Hampshire. And there was just a lot of
14 consternation and there was a lot of open, in public debates and
15 discussions over the last year on the Town Council on such a program.
16 And we couldn't come to an agreement and so we proposed this Charter
17 amendment to simply give the voters the opportunity to tell us whether
18 or not they want this campaign finance requirement in the Charter
19 still or if the voters are okay with the campaign finance requirement
20 going away. So that's the background on this amendment.

21 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Sweeney.

22 BIANCA CARLSON, 8 JOANNA ROAD: Point of order?

23 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Yes.

24 MS. CARLSON: I believe that the motion that was just made was
25 related to Article 4; however, the context of Article 5 is what was
26 just discussed.

27 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Yes, perhaps there was a misspoke. We're
28 speaking of Article 5, Charter amendment number 4. It's a bit
29 confusing.

30 MS. CARLSON: Ok, so we should go back to Article 4 to discuss
31 Article 4 because that was just skipped.

1 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: We skipped one?

2 MS. CARLSON: Yeah, we skipped Article 4 and went to Article 5,
3 which is Charter amendment 4.

4 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: I missed that.

5 MS. CARLSON: Thank you.

6 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Alright, we will backtrack to Article 4. I
7 think my pages got stuck together. Charter Amendment 3, we'll come
8 back to Article 5 in a moment.

9 **Article 4: Charter Amendment 3**

10 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Shall the Town of Salem approve Charter
11 Amendment 3 below relative to amending Section 8.7 of the Charter to
12 align penalties for violations of the Charter with statutory authority
13 and remove language creating enforceable misdemeanors?

14 The proposed amendment relates to Section 8.7 of the Town Charter
15 by updating the language regarding violations and penalties to align
16 with state law. The amendment removes the provision that makes willful
17 violations of the Charter misdemeanors, as the Town does not have the
18 statutory authority to create enforceable misdemeanors. This was with
19 Town Council recommendation. Mr. Sweeney to move the Article.

20 CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: I will move the Article as presented.

21 COUNCILOR STACEY: Second.

22 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Second by Ms. Stacey. To speak to the
23 Article, Mr. Sweeney.

24 CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. This is probably the
25 simplest Charter amendment that is on the ballot. Simply that there's
26 a portion of the Charter that we weren't allowed to enforce by the
27 State. So, this is just bringing it into compliance with State law.

28 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: I'm seeing no one speak, rise to the
29 microphone, so we will move Article 4, as printed on the Warrant to
30 the Town Clerk for inclusion on the ballot to be voted upon March 11,

1 2025. We have already moved and seconded Article 5, so we will resume
2 discussion of Article 5 at this time.

3 **Article 5: Charter Amendment 4 (continued)**

4 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Is there anyone wishing to speak on Article
5 which is Charter amendment 4? Right over here, Miss Moss.

6 MS. MOSS: Again, I was a member of the Charter Commission. I was
7 there. We had discussions about this. One of the main points that we
8 were discussing at length during the Charter Commission was that
9 there's a real sense of distrust between the public and our elected
10 officials. And the goal of this amendment was to help improve that
11 trust. It was also to help improve transparency so that we could
12 ensure we weren't electing a candidate that was funded almost entirely
13 from outside sources of this town. When you combine that with the
14 removing of the one-year residency, you increase the risk that someone
15 who doesn't have Salem's interests at heart is going to come in, move
16 here that day, and run a campaign with a lot of money. And not all
17 the voters are going to know them, but you're going to see a name on
18 a thing, and you might select it. So, we want to guard against that.
19 I, that happens in State politics all the time. People, you know,
20 carpetbag into a State and run a campaign, but they're Washington D.C.
21 insiders and our State goes nuts. And I don't want that happening in
22 our town and our Town Council. The reason we didn't put the rules in
23 place ourselves, but we gave that to you guys is because it is not an
24 easy thing to do. It requires a lot of debate. It requires a lot of
25 details, but we elected you to do difficult things. And just because
26 you can't come to an agreement doesn't mean you should be let off the
27 hook from doing that work. You should put this in place. Just because
28 it doesn't exist in other towns doesn't mean it can't exist; doesn't
29 mean we can't continue to work towards transparency. To have you as a
30 board say that you don't want to tell the voters where you're getting
31 your money, which is what you're doing by putting this amendment on
32 the Article, serves the opposite purpose of why we put it there. It
33 makes, it makes other people question what you're trying to hide, not

1 that you are trying to hide anything, but it puts that idea in people's
2 heads. And so, for you guys to say we want to remove it because it's
3 hard to do this work, I think is a real disappointment and I hope that
4 people vote this down and you guys go back to the drawing board and
5 make this work. Thank you.

6 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Sir?

7 GREGORY DAVIS, 28 Norwood Road: I don't want to prolong this,
8 but I would just say ditto to everything that Ms. Moss just said.

9 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Seeing no one else rising to the microphone,
10 I will refer Article 5, as printed on the Warrant to the Town Clerk
11 for inclusion on the ballot to be voted upon March 11, 2025.

12 **Article 6: Charter Amendment 5**

13 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Shall the Town of Salem approve the
14 amendments to Article 6 of the Town Charter to revise and enhance the
15 Code of Ethics for Elected and Appointed Officials (EAOs), providing
16 clearer definitions, roles, and expectations? These amendments clarify
17 the exclusion of Town employees from Article 6, establish mandatory
18 annual ethics training for EAOs, and ensure more comprehensive
19 guidance to support the Ethics Committee's responsibilities.

20 The proposed amendments to Article 6 of the Town Charter aim to
21 modernize and clarify the Code of Ethics for Elected and Appointed
22 Officials (EAOs). Key changes include:

23 • Refined Definitions: Ensuring consistency in the use of
24 terms such as EAOs and excluding Town employees from the provisions
25 of this Article.

26 • Annual Training Requirement: Mandating the Ethics Committee
27 to provide annual training for all EAOs to strengthen understanding
28 and adherence to ethical standards.

29 • Enhanced Ethics Committee Roles: Clarifying processes and
30 responsibilities of the Ethics Committee, including investigation
31 protocols, advisory opinions, and complaint handling.

1 • Alignment with Intent: Reinforcing the original goals of
2 the Charter to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability
3 among public officials.

4 These revisions are designed to better support ethical governance
5 and uphold public trust in Salem's government. To move the Article,
6 Chairman Sweeney.

7 CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: I move the Article as presented.

8 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Is there a second?

9 COUNCILOR BRYANT: Second.

10 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Seconded, I saw Mr. Bryant's fingers. And to
11 speak to the Article, Mr. Sweeney.

12 CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Moderator As you can all see
13 this is the largest and the longest and the, really the biggest Charter
14 amendment that it being proposed this year. This Charter amendment is
15 completely from the Ethics Committee. Chair Donna Sytek and the Ethics
16 Committee have done a great job over the last two years. Really
17 bringing the Ethics Committee up to light. We had the amendments last
18 year to kind of give them the ability to do things. And then this just
19 further clarifies their role in the role of Ethics in the Town Charter.
20 And so this was brought forward from the Ethics Committee and the Town
21 Council wholeheartedly supported it. And there's a lot to it that Mr.
22 Moderator just read through and there's a lot more in the meeting
23 guide. But I just want that's the background information on this
24 amendment.

25 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Sweeney. Yes?

26 MELISSA SORCINELLI: I just have a question. I support this, but
27 what was the conversation or the reason behind removing the Town
28 employees from being held to similar standards. Just curious.

29 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Mr. Sweeney.

30 CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: Thank you. I'll answer to the best of my
31 ability, not being a lawyer, but it's the inability for any elected

1 position or governing body. So, the Town Council appoints the members
2 of the Ethics Committee. The Ethics, anything that the Town Council
3 purviews cannot be regulating or governing Town employees in a direct
4 manner like that. So, an Ethics complaint can't be brought forward
5 through the Ethics Committee process against a Town employee that is
6 not subject to the purview of the Town Council. Which, the only one
7 we have is the Town Manager direct report.

8 MS. SORCINELLI: Thank you. That's helpful. Okay, well thank you.
9 That's helpful, appreciate it.

10 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Ms. Loranger.

11 MS. LORANGER: So, I just want to highlight to this group and to
12 the audience the last few lines of that paragraph: "Reinforcing the
13 original goals of the Charter to promote integrity, transparency, and
14 accountability among public officials. These revisions are designed
15 to better support ethical governance and uphold public trust in
16 Salem's government." Please remember that because that talks to the
17 previous Charters, as to the previous Warrant Articles as well. So,
18 I'm just reinforcing that to you.

19 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Further? Seeing nothing further,
20 I will refer Article 6, as printed on the Warrant to the Town Clerk
21 for inclusion on the ballot to be voted upon March 11, 2025. Before
22 we continue with Article 7, I have two more non-residents asking for
23 admittance to our meetings. Those are Lesley Kent and Maggie Martin.
24 If there are no objections we will admit those guests to our meeting.
25 Seeing no objections, they are admitted. We will now begin looking at
26 Warrant Articles that have a financial component.

27 **Article 7: CWSRF Loan - Stormwater Management Planning \$100,000**

28 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate
29 the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of stormwater planning work to
30 improve receiving water quality through the development of a watershed
31 management plan for Arlington Pond, and to authorize the issuance of
32 not more than \$100,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the

1 provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), and to authorize
2 the Town Council to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to
3 determine the rate of interest thereon, and to further authorize the
4 Town Council to offset a portion of said appropriation by applying
5 for and accepting a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan, it
6 being understood that repayment of the loan may include up to 100%
7 principal forgiveness. This project is contingent upon approval of a
8 CWSRF loan application. Requires a 3/5 ballot vote. This Warrant
9 Article was voted with recommendation by the Town Council. To move
10 the Article, Councilor Stramaglia.

11 COUNCILOR STRAMAGLIA: I move the Article.

12 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Councilor Stramaglia moves Article. Second?
13 Is there a second?

14 COUNCILOR STACEY: Second.

15 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Seconded by Councilor Stacey. And so, we have
16 the Budget Committee to speak to this Article. Chairman Boyer.

17 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Yes, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to
18 move Warrant Article #7 as read with approval.

19 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. To speak to the Article, Councilor
20 Stramaglia.

21 COUNCILOR STRAMAGLIA: Okay. This project includes tasks to assist
22 the Town in improving the water quality of Arlington Pond, which has
23 a listed impairment on the most recent Integrated List of Waters for
24 cyanobacteria. The project includes the development of a broader
25 watershed management plan that would examine the causes and sources
26 of pollution within the Arlington Pond Watershed, estimate pollutant
27 loadings and required reductions to restore designated uses of the
28 water body, identify management measures, discuss future funding
29 sources, foster public engagement, and present an overall project
30 schedule for implementation. Originator: Town Council, Funding Source:
31 Loan - Principal Forgiveness, Rate Impact: \$0.00. With recommendation.

1 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Councilor. Are there any questions
2 or comments on this Warrant Article from the audience. Seeing no one
3 rise to the microphone, I will refer Article 7, as printed on the
4 Warrant to the Town Clerk for inclusion on the ballot to be voted upon
5 March 11, 2025.

6 **Article 08: 2025 Operating Budget \$73,569,114**

7 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an
8 operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant
9 articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set
10 forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of
11 the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling
12 \$73,569,114? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall
13 be \$62,713,012, which is the same as last year, with certain
14 adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the
15 Town Council may hold one (1) special meeting, in accordance with RSA
16 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget
17 only. To move the Warrant Article, Councilor Bryant.

18 COUNCILOR BRYANT: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. This Article provides
19 funding.

20 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Councilor Bryant, I need a motion first.

21 COUNCILOR BRYANT: I'll move it.

22 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Move it. Is there a second?

23 COUNCILOR STACEY: Second.

24 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. And to speak for the Budget
25 Committee, Chairman Boyer.

26 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. First of all, I'd like
27 to thank the Town staff and the Town Council for their help in bringing
28 the Budget Committee and the taxpayers a budget which is producing a
29 reasonable percentage tax rate and demonstrates a prudent allocation
30 of public funds for our taxpayers. The Budget Committee voted
31 unanimously to move Warrant Article 8 as read with approval.

1 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Now Chairman Bryant, um, Mr.

2 Bryant, sorry, I apologize.

3 COUNCILOR BRYANT: I got promoted.

4 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: No, my apologies.

5 COUNCILOR BRYANT: Don't apologize. This article provides funding
6 for the recurring annual operating costs of providing a broad range
7 of public services to the community. Please review the financial
8 report and recommendations of the Budget Committee detailed in the
9 warrant as shown on the MS-737 Form. The operating budget is a "bottom
10 line budget" by law in New Hampshire. Therefore, the final vote taken
11 on this article will be based on the aggregate appropriation. The Town
12 property tax is \$5.33, the Water Rate has been set at \$4.55, and the
13 Sewer Rate has been set at \$5.45.

14 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Bryant. Are there any
15 questions or comments on the Warrant Article for the Operating Budget?
16 Seeing no one rise to the microphone, I will refer Article 8, as
17 printed on the Warrant to the Town Clerk for inclusion on the ballot
18 to be voted upon March 11, 2025.

19 **Article 09: 2025 Road Construction and Engineering Program \$3,400,000**

20 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate
21 the sum of Three Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,400,000)
22 to be added to the Roadway Capital Reserve Fund previously established
23 in 1990 for the purpose of repair and/or reconstruction of existing
24 roads, associated drainage improvements, right-of-way work as
25 necessary, and engineering? Shall the Town further authorize the Town
26 Council to accept any and all State Aid or other revenue source that
27 may become available for this work and to take any other action
28 relative thereto including acquiring or conveying interests in real
29 property necessary to complete the work? The funds will be used for
30 the improvement, reconstruction, maintenance, crack sealing,
31 drainage, and associated attributes as necessary for complete streets
32 engineering and construction of roads as outlined in the Annual Road

1 Program. This was voted by the Town Council with recommendation. I
2 recognize Councilor Withrow to move the Article.

3 COUNCILOR WITHROW: I move Article 9 to the ballot.

4 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: And seconded by?

5 COUNCILOR STACEY: Second

6 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Councilor Stacey. The Budget Committee voted
7 with recommendation. Chairman Boyer to speak to the Budget Committee.

8 CHAIRMAN BOYER: The Budget Committee voted to move unanimously
9 Warrant Article #9 as read with approval.

10 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Boyer. Councilor Withrow to
11 speak to the Article.

12 COUNCILOR WITHROW: Within the context of the Annual Road Program,
13 capital road rehabilitation and reconstruction continue towards a goal
14 of improving overall road conditions within the Town. Road Program
15 priorities are generally guided by road condition and PCI (pavement
16 condition index) ratings, traffic volumes, and opportunities to
17 coordinate road construction with other projects. A majority of the
18 funds are dedicated to construction, with a portion of the funds being
19 allocated to engineering design of other main roads. This overall
20 approach enables the Town to execute a well-coordinated construction
21 project, and at the same time, prepare/maintain a healthy backlog of
22 design projects that will be ready for reconstruction in subsequent
23 years. The streets are going to be, I'm not going to read them. Are
24 we going to post them? As listed. And the impact rate is \$.51 and
25 approved by Town Council.

26 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Further from the Meeting? Seeing no one rise
27 to the microphone, I will refer Article 9, as printed on the Warrant
28 to the Town Clerk for inclusion on the ballot to be voted upon March
29 11, 2025. Moving on, moving at a very good clip today.

30 **Article 10: Municipal Equipment Purchases and Facility Improvements \$277,840**

31 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate

1 the sum of Two Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Forty
2 Dollars (\$277,840) for the purpose of funding the following municipal
3 facility improvements and equipment purchases?

4 • Purchase of a skid steer for Municipal Services: \$34,900
5 • Paving the rear parking lot at Central Fire: \$100,000
6 • Purchase of large garage lifts for the Fleet Division at
7 Municipal Services: \$71,713
8 • Replacement of flooring at the Fire Station and Town Hall:
9 \$46,927
10 • Replacement of windows at the Hose House (Old Fire Station):
11 \$24,300

12 This was voted with recommendation by the Town Council. I asked
13 Councilor Stacey to move the Article.

14 COUNCILOR STACEY: I'd like to move Article 10.

15 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Councilor Stacey. Is there a
16 second?

17 CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: Second.

18 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Seconded by Chairman Sweeney. The Budget
19 Committee voted without recommendation. Chairman Boyer to speak to
20 the Budget Committee.

21 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. Two or three years ago
22 the Board of Selectmen at the time had increased the materiality
23 amount for the CIP to review certain capital transactions. This bucket
24 of capital items, although the majority of the Budget Committee feels
25 is extremely worthy, it's presented as a Warrant Article. The Budget
26 Committee was under the impression, well I should say the majority of
27 the Budget Committee was under the impression that these types of
28 Warrants would not surface as seen here. The Budget Committee was
29 hopeful that these types of expenditures would, under the new Charter,
30 be more transparent and available for discussion and collaboration in

1 the Operating Budget itself. As it is here, the Budget Committee under
2 the chosen presentation we have no means to consider the
3 prioritization or adjust the amounts individually. It's an all or
4 nothing on a quarter million-dollar package. This process as submitted
5 has the ability to exceed the, our targeted percentage tax rate goals.
6 And that gets confusing for the voters. Accordingly the majority, oh,
7 I just want to add that most of these are for Fire, and I think that
8 the, in the budget this year there's a ladder truck that was paid for
9 \$2.6 million and an ambulance for \$465,000 so we're not leaving the
10 Fire Department out Mr. Lemire. I'm sure you understand that. We
11 talked about that. But in any event the majority of the Budget
12 Committee vote to move this Warrant Article #10 as read without
13 approval.

14 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Chairman Boyer. To speak to the
15 Warrant Article, Ms. Stacey.

16 COUNCILOR STACEY: Thank you. This article funds essential
17 municipal equipment and facility improvements aimed at maintaining
18 the Town's infrastructure and supporting operations. The skid steer
19 will improve efficiency in municipal services, while paving, flooring,
20 and window replacements will enhance safety, usability, and
21 maintenance of Town facilities. The garage lifts will support the
22 Fleet Division by improving vehicle maintenance capabilities. This
23 Article originated from Town Council. The funding source is property
24 tax. The rate impact is .0375. Thank you. And this is the presentation.
25 As you can see the Central Fire parking lot which is mostly usually
26 underwater. Town Hall flooring which is really a mess and kind of a
27 problem as well as the flooring at the Fire Department. And the Hose
28 House windows down in Salem Depot, I'm sorry, center, Salem center.
29 Thank you.

30 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: To speak to the Article, Mr. Goddu.

31 STEVEN GODDU, 5 CANDLESTICK LANE: I just want to be clear that
32 these improvements are probably necessary, but we as a Budget

1 Committee had a goal of trying to deliver to the town a 3.5% tax
2 increase and this is taking us over that increase. Further, these
3 items should have been included in the Operating Budget so that we
4 could discuss it and go over the merits of it just as Chairman Boyer
5 has mentioned. And the reason, so the reason that the Budget Committee
6 is against this and several other Articles that you'll see coming up
7 is because we're trying to keep the taxes to a 3.5% increase. You want
8 to pay more taxes, vote for these Articles.

9 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Ms. Moss.

10 MS. MOSS: Couple things I just want to say. Preventative
11 maintenance is a thing that we constantly kick the can down the road
12 on and all that leads to is higher costs later on. If we don't do this
13 this year, we're going to have to do it next year, and you know what,
14 there's going to be more maintenance that we have to do next year too.
15 So, the goal of this kind of work is to even it out across multiple
16 years and have a little bit this year, a little bit next year and
17 things like that. I know it was either last year or the year before
18 we had to buy like a million dollars' worth of vehicles because we
19 weren't on a good schedule of doing it on a regular basis. And if we
20 push this stuff off because it's going to make our tax rate too high
21 this year, we're going to end up with a much bigger tax spike in
22 future years. These projects are probably going to cost more money
23 than they cost right now. And all of that is making it more expensive
24 for us in the future to save a little bit of money now. So, in general,
25 that's a bad idea. I would hope that people vote for this Article. I
26 would also echo though this should have been in the budget. I was on
27 the Charter Commission and one of our goals was to have the number of
28 Articles go down and seeing a lot of Articles here. And especially
29 one that these are just regular budgetary items, and they should be
30 managed in a budget the way the budget process is supposed to work.
31 Thank you.

32 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Ms. Thornock.

1 MS. THORNOCK: So, just for some clarifications, we work on a
2 bottom-line budget here in Salem, correct? Is there any reason why
3 the Operating Budget couldn't find some money in our budget to do all
4 of this without asking the taxpayers to pony up an additional \$277,840?

5 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: To take that question, Mr. Sweeney.

6 CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: Thank you. I would just say that would
7 certainly require the Town to find \$277,000 elsewhere to reduce in
8 town spending to fund these projects. The way this is being presented,
9 if this Warrant Article fails, none of these projects are going to be
10 funded out of anything in the bottom-line budget. So, it's either this
11 passes, and we can do these projects. If the voters say no to it that
12 is the voter's prerogative and then the Town won't be pursuing these
13 projects out of the bottom-line budget for the Articles. The spending
14 that's been presented in the Town Budget will be prioritized and none
15 of these projects will be able to be funded out of the budget.

16 MS. THORNOCK: Thank you.

17 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Ms. Thornock. Further? Seeing no
18 one else rise to the microphone, I will refer Article 10, as printed
19 on the Warrant to the Town Clerk for inclusion on the ballot to be
20 voted upon March 11, 2025.

21 **Article 11: Other Post-Employment (OPEB) Trust Fund \$50,000**

22 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate
23 the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Other
24 Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund, previously established in
25 accordance with New Hampshire RSA Chapter 31:19-c for the purpose of
26 paying for other post-employment benefits to employees and their
27 beneficiaries after their termination of service as provided in the
28 law and administrative expenses, with \$40,000 to come from the
29 taxation, \$5,000 from the sewer fund, and \$5,000 from the water fund?
30 This was voted by the Town Council with recommendation. To move the
31 Article, Councilor Stacey.

32 COUNCILOR STACEY: I move Article 11.

1 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Is there a second?

2 COUNCILOR BRYANT: Second.

3 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Seconded by Mr. Bryant. Budget Committee
4 voted this item with recommendation. Chairman Boyer.

5 CHAIRMAN BOYER: The Budget Committee voted unanimously to move
6 this Warrant Article #11 as read with approval.

7 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. To speak to the Article, Councilor
8 Stacey.

9 COUNCILOR STACEY: Thank you. This article provides funding for a
10 trust fund for other post-employment benefits other than pensions.
11 Credit rating agencies as well as the auditors want to see that the
12 Town annually funds an OPEB trust fund. Regularly funding an OPEB
13 trust will help maintain the Town's AAA credit rating as well as
14 reduce the liability on the Town's financial statements. The money in
15 the account can only be used as allowed by RSA Chapter 31:19-c. This
16 fund will allow the Town to earn interest to help pay for future
17 obligations. Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) will be appropriated from
18 the Sewer Fund and Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) will be appropriated
19 from the Water Fund with the remainder to come from taxation. This
20 was originated by the Town Council, the funding source: property tax
21 and water and sewer funds, and the rate impact is .01.

22 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Councilor. Comment from the
23 Meeting? Seeing no one rise to the microphone, I will refer Article
24 11, as printed on the Warrant to the Town Clerk for inclusion on the
25 ballot to be voted upon March 11, 2025.

26 **Article 12: Town Facility Maintenance & Improvement Capital Reserve Fund \$50,000**

27 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate
28 the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Town
29 Facility Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund previously
30 established in 2021 for the purpose of future repairs, improvements,
31 and/or replacement for all municipal facilities? Voted by the Town
32 Council with recommendation. To move the Article, Mr. Hatch.

1 COUNCILOR HATCH: So, moved.

2 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: It is moved, is there a second?

3 COUNCILOR BRYANT: Second

4 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Councilor Bryant with the second. The Budget
5 Committee voted with recommendation. Chairman Boyer to speak to the
6 Article.

7 CHAIRMAN BOYER: The Budget Committee voted unanimously to move
8 Warrant Article #12 as read with approval.

9 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Boyer. Mr. Hatch to speak to
10 the Article.

11 COUNCILOR HATCH: This article provides funding for a capital
12 reserve fund for unanticipated building repairs that occur during a
13 year. Examples include HVAC failure and replacement, roof repairs,
14 etc. This fund may also be used for capital improvements to town
15 buildings as well as a funding source to build new municipal
16 facilities. The purpose of this fund is not to be used for land
17 acquisition. With aging municipal facilities, it is prudent to have a
18 funding source to pay for unexpected repairs and plan for upgrades
19 that will occur in future years. The originator is the Town Council,
20 funding source is the property tax, and the rate impact is .01.

21 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Councilor Hatch. Pleasure of the
22 Meeting? Seeing no one rise to the microphone, I will refer Article
23 12, as printed on the Warrant to the Town Clerk for inclusion on the
24 ballot to be voted upon March 11, 2025.

25 **Article 13: Kelley Library Capital Reserve Fund \$8,000**

26 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate
27 the sum of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000) to be placed in the Kelley
28 Library Building Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2010
29 for the purpose of funding capital improvements to the building from
30 unassigned fund balance? This was moved by the Town Council with
31 recommendation. To move the Article, Councilor Pelletier.

1 COUNCILOR PELLETIER: So moved.

2 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: It is moved.

3 COUNCILOR BRYANT: Second

4 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: And seconded by Councilor Bryant. The Budget
5 Committee voted this Article with recommendation. To speak to the
6 Budget Committee, Chairman Boyer.

7 CHAIRMAN BOYER: The Budget Committee voted unanimously to move
8 Warrant Article #13 as read with approval.

9 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. To speak to the Article, Councilor
10 Pelletier.

11 COUNCILOR PELLETIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This article funds
12 a transfer to the Kelley Library Capital Reserve Fund. In 2024 the
13 Library received an incentive check in the amount of \$8,000 from
14 Liberty Utilities as a result of their furnace upgrade. The warrant
15 article would allow that money to be placed in the capital reserve
16 fund. This warrant article will be funded with unassigned fund
17 balance. The originator is the Town Council, funding source is
18 unassigned fund balance, and rate impact to the taxpayers is zero.

19 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Councilor Pelletier. Purview of
20 the Meeting? Seeing no one rise to the microphone, I will refer Article
21 13, as printed on the Warrant to the Town Clerk for inclusion on the
22 ballot to be voted upon March 11, 2025.

23 **Article 14: Adoption of Salem Community Choice Electric Aggregation Plan N/A**

24 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Shall the Town of Salem vote to adopt the
25 Salem Community Choice Electric Aggregation Plan which authorizes the
26 Town Council to develop and implement a Salem Community Choice
27 Aggregation Program as described therein (pursuant to RSA 53-E)?

28 This program would allow the Town to provide Salem residents and
29 businesses access to competitive markets for supplies of energy and
30 related energy services. Majority vote required. This did not require
31 a Budget Committee recommendation as it is not a money Article, but

1 it was voted by the Town Council with recommendation. To move the
2 Article, recognize Councilor Wright.

3 COUNCILOR WRIGHT: It is my pleasure to move Article 14 forward
4 as presented.

5 COUNCILOR STACEY: Second.

6 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Seconded by Councilor Stacey. To speak to
7 the Article, Councilor Wright.

8 COUNCILOR WRIGHT: The Town Council voted to enter into a
9 Community Power Consultant Agreement with Freedom Energy Logistics /
10 Colonial Power Group and establish an Electric Aggregation Committee
11 (i.e. Energy Committee) on September 9, 2024. On September 30, 2024,
12 the Electric Aggregation Committee (i.e. Energy Committee) unanimously
13 voted to accept the draft Community Choice Electric Aggregation Plan
14 and present it to the Town Council. Pursuant to RSA 53-E, the Energy
15 Committee held two public hearings on November 4, 2024, and December
16 2, 2024, through the regular Town Council meetings. If approved, the
17 Town Manager and Town Council would be allowed to establish a Community
18 Choice Aggregation Program pursuant to the provisions of the Community
19 Choice Electric Aggregation Plan. Mr. Crayton Brubaker has worked with
20 the Energy Committee and has a PowerPoint presentation to explain how
21 this will work.

22 CRAYTON BRUBAKER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MANAGER: Good
23 morning. I'm the Community Development Program Manager for the Town.
24 Here to speak to Warrant Article #14. Mr. Stuart Ormsbee is also here.
25 He's one of the Town's energy consultants. Copies of the electric
26 aggregation plan is available on the Town website under the Energy
27 Committee page. If we could go to the first slide. Essentially what a
28 community choice aggregation program is, is it's allowed under RSA
29 53E. And it allows towns to combine the purchasing power of residents
30 and businesses to provide an alternative electric supply option to
31 Liberty Utilities. Liberty Utilities is the default electric service
32 for the Town of Salem. And these programs have been proven to be

1 viable in delivering choice and price stability in regards to
2 electricity. So how would this benefit the residents? Liberty
3 Utilities follows a schedule of six months of buying electricity and
4 that's kind of on a routine basis and it's regardless of market
5 conditions. They have to purchase every six months. Under a CCA
6 program, the Town, through the Town's consultants could purchase
7 electricity strategically for the residents to secure contracts at
8 low points in the market and the Town would not be restricted to
9 purchasing on those six-month purchasing timelines. Local decision
10 making is a key part of this program. Salem would be able to set its
11 own energy-related goals based on the priorities of the residents and
12 in particular, one of them would be to get the lowest rate for the
13 residents. So, how did this Warrant Article come about? Throughout
14 2024 the Town Council diligently worked to research different
15 community choice aggregation programs allowed under the State law. In
16 September, the Council established the Energy Committee, and the
17 Energy Committee brought forth the electric aggregation plan which is
18 proposed. And through two public hearings the Town Council unanimously
19 passed the plan to be put on the Town Warrant for voter approval. And
20 then one important note about this program is that this is an opt out
21 program. So, if this Warrant Article passes customers in Salem or
22 residents of Salem who are on Liberty Utility will be automatically
23 enrolled into the CCA program. Customers could opt out at any time
24 with no penalty or fee and then you can also opt back in to the program
25 with and later, at a later point with no penalty or fee. The program
26 is entirely self-funded with no cost impacts to the Town or
27 nonparticipating customers. And participation is entirely optional.
28 And then if a resident has a current contract with Liberty Utilities
29 such as with solar, or a third-party supplier such as group net
30 metering, those residents with those third-party supply contracts will
31 not automatically be enrolled. And then Stuart will be able to finish
32 the explanation.

33 STUART ORMSBEE, COLONIAL POWER GROUP: In an important element of

1 this program, this is just affecting the power supply portion of the
2 services that Liberty Utilities provides. So, Liberty will continue
3 to deliver the electricity. They'll maintain the poles, the wires. If
4 there is a power outage a consumer would still contact Liberty to get
5 that taken care of. Then, in terms of billing, you would still receive
6 a single bill from Liberty Utilities. The only thing that would change
7 is a single line item going, moving from default service to the program
8 supply rate. In terms of next step, if the voters decide to move this
9 Warrant Article forward what happens next is the plan as described
10 would get filed with the State Utility Commission for its review and
11 approval. They take about two months to get that accomplished. That
12 would mean in about the May or June timeframe the Town at that point
13 would have a program that it could act upon. So, we would work with
14 suppliers in the region, get competitive pricing, and present those
15 pricing to the Town Manager and the Council for the consideration.
16 The program would not get underway unless the program can offer savings
17 for consumers. If and when the Council decides to sign a contract to
18 launch the program, then there would be a large media blitz if you
19 will. We will make sure that the message is getting out to residents
20 and businesses in town, once again, explaining in great detail what
21 the program's about when the plan was to go forward. Doing a side-by-
22 side comparison in pricing, making sure people are aware of the choices
23 they have at that point. I'll be happy to take any questions.

24 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, sir. Questions from the Meeting?
25 Yes, Ms. Wright.

26 COUNCILOR WRIGHT: I just wanted to point out that the committee
27 was told that anything like the media blitz would not be paid for by
28 the Town. It would be paid for by the consultants. So, it's not going
29 to cost us anything and it will save us money.

30 MR. ORMSBEE: That's correct. No expenditures on the part of the
31 Town.

32 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Questions from the Meeting? Seeing

1 none, I will refer Article 14, as printed on the Warrant to the Town
2 Clerk for inclusion on the ballot to be voted upon March 11, 2025. We
3 are expecting Mr. Goodnow will relieve me here for Article 15 so I
4 may do the presentation on the election districting. And he just
5 texted me that he's in the parking lot because I don't think either
6 of us expected this meeting to go this quickly so we will pause for a
7 short recess at this time. We will be in recess for about five minutes.
8 Mr. Goddu. I recognize you.

9 MR. GODDU: Thank you. I would like to request reconsideration of
10 Article 10.

11 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: There's been a motion to request
12 reconsideration of Article 10. Is there a second?

13 ANTHONY CONTE, 5 GARDNER AVENUE: Second.

14 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: There's a second. Sir, your name? Anthony
15 Conte. Okay, a motion to request reconsideration has been moved and
16 seconded. It will need to be approved by the Body for, it would need
17 to be voted on by the Body. If you are in favor of reconsidering
18 Article #10, you will indicate by saying 'aye.' If you are opposed,
19 you will say 'nay.' If you are in favor of bringing Article 10 back
20 for reconsideration, please say 'aye.' Those opposed say 'nay.' It is
21 the opinion of the Moderator that the nays have it.

22 MR. GODDU: Standing vote.

23 SEAN LEWIS, 179 BRADY AVENUE: Restrict reconsideration.

24 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: There's a motion to restrict reconsideration
25 of specific Articles Mr. Lewis?

26 MR. LEWIS: Article 10.

27 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Article 10. Move to restrict reconsideration
28 on Article 10. Is there a second?

29 PAT HARGREAVES, 12 RIDGEVIEW AVENUE: Point of order.

30 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Did I hear point of order?

1 MR. HARGREAVES: Yes.

2 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Sir?

3 MR. HARGREAVES: As much as I love to do this one right now but
4 Mr. Goddu, Steve did ask for the standing vote before you jumped on
5 board. So, he was ahead of that.

6 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Okay. I didn't hear it, but I will accept
7 that. There's a request for a standing vote. Is there a second because
8 it requires two voters to request a standing vote. So, to move on the
9 Article standing count vote for the motion for reconsideration on
10 Article 10. Mr. Goodnow since you've just arrived, I will have you
11 count heads. You will. You will count the back section, and I'll count
12 the front section. If you are in favor of moving to, you're in favor
13 of the motion to reconsider Article 10, please stand at this time. If
14 you are against the motion to reconsider Article 10, please rise. The
15 nays have it. We have rejected the motion to reconsider Article 10.
16 Mr. Lewis.

17 MR. LEWIS: Mr. Moderator I move to restrict reconsideration of
18 Article 10.

19 COUNCILOR STACEY: Second.

20 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Motion to restrict reconsideration of Article
21 10 seconded by Councilor Stacey. All those in favor of the motion to
22 restrict reconsideration on Article 10 please signify by saying 'aye.'
23 Those opposed? In the opinion of the Chair the ayes have it.

24 MR. GODDU: Point of order.

25 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Yes, Mr. Goddu.

26 MR. GODDU: Okay, I believe that we are in violation of the Town
27 Charter. The Town Charter says the Council shall review the budget
28 and make such modifications and amendments as it desires. All
29 anticipated expenses except those involving the issuance of bonds
30 shall be compiled into one budget appropriation. Article 10 violates
31 that because it's not bonded. I, that can be taken up with counsel,

1 but I believe that we're out of order even putting this Article forward
2 to the voters and I believe it should be struck from the, from the
3 ballot.

4 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: I will speak with our counsel on that.

5 MR. GODDU: It's Section 5.3 for anybody who's looking it up on
6 the Town Charter.

7 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: All right, after consultation with counsel,
8 I believe that Mr. Goddu's interpretation of the Charter is correct.
9 However, there are some conflicting issues here. One of which is once
10 an Article is put forward on the ballot, it can't be removed because
11 by State law it had to go before the voters because it has been
12 presented to this Body. It's been posted on the Warrant. However, I
13 believe I'm going to recognize someone from the Town Council here in
14 a moment. Mr. Hatch? Mr. Hatch.

15 COUNCILOR HATCH: Okay. I shut mine off. And see if I can do this
16 right here. So, we're going to amend this to a dollar? We're going to
17 amend this Article to \$1.

18 AUDIENCE: It's restricted.

19 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: We haven't voted to restrict it. We did? I
20 thought we, oh no, we did restrict it. It did pass. So, we have
21 restricted reconsideration on Article 10 which adds another layer,
22 wrinkle to this.

23 MR. CONTE: Point of information, a point of order Mr. Moderator.

24 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Yes, Mr. Conte.

25 MR. CONTE: The, so, can the meeting vote to suspend the rules to
26 take care of the problem over the reconsideration.

27 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: RSA 40:10 State law prevents that action Mr.
28 Conte. But I appreciate the question. Councilor Hatch?

29 COUNCILOR HATCH: So just to clarify, I can't do anything with
30 this one.

1 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: That is correct sir. RSA 40:10 State law
2 prevents that reconsideration once that motion has been passed.

3 COUNCILOR HATCH: Okay. Then what I'd like to do is open up
4 reconsideration for the Article concerning the operational budget.

5 COUNCILOR STACEY: Second.

6 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: And we've moved to reopen consideration on
7 Article 8, the Operating Budget. Moved by Councilor Hatch and seconded
8 by Councilor Stacey. If you are the... Point of order, sir?

9 MR. HARGREAVES: So, we're talking about this one. Jeff wants to
10 move this to another Article. Can we table this?

11 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: So, please understand that once the Article
12 has been put forward it can't be taken off and especially now that we
13 have restricted reconsideration on it, we can't do anything with it.
14 It's going to be there regardless even if it is an illegal Warrant
15 Article. So that we can't sit with it, we've got, we're kind of stuck
16 with it at the corner at the moment.

17 MR. HARGREAVES: Another question. Who's responsible for going
18 through all these Articles and having this one slip through the cracks?
19 Who is responsible for reading all our Articles and making sure that
20 we don't do this? What happened?

21 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: I'll let the Town Council answer that
22 question. Is there someone who wants to take that question? Chairman
23 Sweeney.

24 CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: Yeah, we'll own it. We, our interpretation of
25 the Charter and I applaud Mr. Goddu for bringing forward the Charter
26 provision that would deny this. On behalf of the Town Council, this
27 was, we were under the opinion that we could do it this way. And
28 clearly, we were not so it's on us.

29 MR. HARGREAVES: I was a Selectman years ago and we had Articles.
30 We had our attorneys look at them before we brought them in front of
31 the town council. We didn't have that done?

1 CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: We had this done. It just...

2 MR. HARGREAVES: So, who did they go to? That gentleman sitting
3 right there in the front?

4 CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: We are, we're owning it as the Town Council.
5 The buck stops with your Town Council.

6 MR. HARGREAVES: We don't care about the buck stopping. I want to
7 know who didn't do their job and not every one of you did that. Who
8 did this Article go to that dropped the ball.

9 CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: It's, at the end of the day. It's our
10 responsibility. So, you can blame me.

11 MR. HARGREAVES: Non-answer. Thank you.

12 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Sir, there was somebody behind you.

13 MS. MOSS: Just for information, if this illegal Warrant Article
14 passes at the ballot box, do we still as a town appropriate that or
15 do we not get that money regardless of how that gets voted.

16 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: I've been informed by Counsel that it's a
17 question that might be, unfortunately require an opinion from the
18 Department of Revenue. And as they're not here, we can't get an answer
19 for you right this second. I apologize. Attorney Campbell.

20 BERNARD H. CAMPBELL, 106 BRADY AVENUE: I suspect that the
21 Moderator's. I suspect that Counsel's opinion is correct that we can't
22 revisit the number 10 because we've already restricted
23 reconsideration. But there is at least one more option that the Town
24 Council can take and that is to change your recommendation and
25 recommend that the voters vote it down and maybe that would probably
26 at least maybe it wouldn't pass. If it would pass, I assume that
27 Counsel would agree that the remedy might be some sort of declaratory
28 judgement action to strike it or have the DRA disallow it which the
29 DRA potentially has the ability to disallow the appropriation and
30 strike it from the, from the budget or strike it from the Warrant
31 that's approved and that could be brought to the attention of the DRA

1 Commissioner's Office and they could probably strike the appropriation
2 either way. So, I think there's a couple of options there.

3 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Attorney Campbell. Someone from
4 the Town Council. Um, we're back to the motion to reconsider Article
5 8. There was a second. All those in favor of reconsidering Article 8,
6 the Operating Budget, please indicate by saying 'aye.' Those opposed.
7 In the opinion of the Chair the 'ayes' have it. We are going to go
8 back to Article 8. Article 8, Mr. Hatch to speak to your Article 8
9 motion reconsideration.

10 COUNCILOR HATCH: Mr. Moderator, I make a motion that we amend
11 Article 8, the Operating Budget to, I'm just going to change the
12 number from \$73,59,114 to \$73,800,061, uh, excuse me, \$73,861,954.
13 And what I've done is with the Article that was in question, what's
14 come to light that the following Article's also going to fall
15 underneath that same rule, so I am taking the total of all those
16 Articles and adding them to the Operational Budget. With that cost,
17 they all totaled to \$292,840 if that makes sense.

18 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: It does. Is there a second for the amendment?

19 COUNCILOR STRAMAGLIA: Second

20 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Seconded by Councilor Stramaglia. Discussion
21 on the amendment to the Operating Budget? Mr. Goddu.

22 MR. GODDU: Thank you. This is a second bite at the apple. We
23 probably should have restricted this, but apparently, I wasn't on top
24 of that procedure. If this extra additional money goes into the
25 Operating Budget, it's going to take us over the tax amount that we
26 are trying to achieve of 3.5%. I will recommend to the Budget Committee
27 that this Article gets passed to the voters without recommendation
28 if, in fact, we do add the additional money into it.

29 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Further?

30 DAMON NORCROSS, 8 SORENSEN ROAD: I was hoping someone from Town
31 Council could maybe speak to why the decision to have Warrant Article

1 #10 as opposed to going through the normal budgetary process. So maybe
2 just some discussion on why it was important. Certainly, I'm in favor
3 of everything that was on that list, but it didn't go through the
4 normal prioritization. If you just give the citizens a little bit of
5 reason so we can make an informed decision about, you know, voting on
6 adding it to the Budget.

7 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Councilor Sweeney.

8 COUNCILOR SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Moderator and thank you for
9 the question. So, this Article did not pop up overnight. This was
10 discussed when we brought up the budget at the Town level. The Town
11 Manager's proposed budget included everything that the Town needed to
12 do. And I will stress that we had set the goal as the Town Council to
13 keep the rate of growth tied to the inflation rate so that we weren't
14 burdening the taxpayers. So, the Town Manager and the Town staff
15 worked diligently to produce a budget that met that requirement, that
16 goal set by the Town Council. These items were listed in the budget
17 presentation from the Town Manager as additional, I don't want to say
18 they're wants because they are needs of the Town's, but additional
19 desires that the Town could pursue if the Town wanted to. The Town
20 Council's opinion was that we would focus on the leanest Town budget
21 that we could present and put these articles into a separate Warrant
22 Article so that the voters could decide up or down if they wanted to
23 fund these projects separately from the Budget. Obviously, the
24 conversation has evolved today to the point where that Article should
25 not have been presented per the Charter, and so this amendment will
26 bring this anticipated spending into the budget, and that was just an
27 oversight on our part, and we apologize.

28 MR. NORCROSS: Great. And just a final note, thank you for taking
29 responsibility for it. I thought it was a fantastic answer. This is
30 new. We're doing some new things. There's a lot of moving parts.
31 Sometimes we make mistakes and it's okay. Thank you.

32 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Mr. Hatch.

1 COUNCILOR HATCH: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. Also I'd like to point
2 out that in previous years that Article 10 would have been broken down
3 into separate Articles for each and every one of those items. So, we
4 did take into consideration the number of Articles that were being
5 presented and decided to lump them all into one. So that's probably
6 also part of the reason that we also did that. We also didn't want to
7 make it part of the Operational Budget. It also gives you the choice,
8 do I, as the voter, do I want to support these things, or do I don't
9 want to support these things? That's all.

10 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Ms., no I'm sorry, please.

11 MS. CARLSON: I have a question that's not related to the Article
12 10 figures and I'm not sure if it's an appropriate time to ask that
13 now.

14 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Go ahead.

15 MS. CARLSON: I can wait.

16 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Is, okay, is it about the procedure of the
17 meeting or?

18 MS. CARLSON: No, the budget itself.

19 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Well, we're on the amendment and we will...

20 MS. CARLSON: I just want to make sure that I'm...

21 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Yep, that's fine. We can come back to it
22 after the amendment. Sir?

23 MR. DAVIS: I guess my only question, it's not a question, is how
24 are you going to explain this to the voters? If they vote yes on the
25 illegal amendment and then you also have to explain to them that that
26 same amount of dollars has been put into the now Operating Budget. If
27 the only way to get this is to do that, to put it in the Operating
28 Budget, I'm all for it. But the confusion, you're going to have to at
29 least be prepared to be able to explain this in a cogent way to the
30 voters. That's my only comment.

1 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Yes, Ms. Wright.

2 COUCNIOR WRIGHT: I just want to point out our new Town Manager
3 did a great job sticking to the request of the Budget Committee and
4 the Town Council of proposing a budget that was flat line 3%, 3.5%.
5 He also gave us a list of a lot of items that would be nice to do,
6 but not definitely needed. The list we see in, is it Article 10, is
7 a, we took that list and narrowed it down to the really top things.
8 If we wait on doing these things, we have to do them, and it will cost
9 more in the future. Thank you.

10 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Ms. Moss.

11 MS. MOSS: I just want to say, I'll repeat what I said last time
12 that, you know, these are maintenance items that need to be taken care
13 of. We should be taking care of them. We have a long history in this
14 town of dropping the ball on preventative maintenance and it has led
15 to large expenses like needing to renovate the entire Police Station.
16 It's going to lead to large expenses of having to renovate the Town
17 Hall and Main Street Fire, and the more we don't do this maintenance,
18 the more costly it becomes in the long run. So, I approve of amending
19 it. I'm not concerned about the voters if you just tell them, Article
20 10 vote against it because it's an illegal Article. Article 8 is the
21 Budget. This is the money we need, vote for that. I think voters will
22 understand. I am concerned with the Budget Committee that is willing
23 to ax what will be \$11 million of necessary funds just to push back
24 on a \$100,000 of necessary preventative maintenance because if they
25 say not to vote on this Operating Budget you can see very clearly we
26 would get \$62 million versus \$73 million and that would be an extremely
27 difficult year for us to live because I'm sure all of those expenses
28 are also very necessary.

29 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Mr. Conte.

30 MR. CONTE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Moderator. I just want to point
31 out that if both Article 8 as amended passes and Article 10, of which
32 there is some legal question about or definitely should not have been

1 put forth, you will now have two authorizations which will amount to
2 over \$500,000 rather than just the 277. So, it's going to be
3 substantially more than the agreed upon 3.5% increase in the tax levy.

4 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Mr. Sweeney to speak to that.

5 MR. SWEENEY: Thank you for the question, Mr. Conte and the point
6 that you've raised. I would refer back to Attorney Campbell, operating
7 as a private citizen of Salem, and what he stated. Working with the
8 DRA, we would ensure that we're not double taxing for those Articles.

9 MR. CONTE: Thank you.

10 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Mr. Breen.

11 KEVIN BREEN, 12 SCHOOL STREET: Just one question for the Council.
12 I understand what's going on here and I support it, but could you
13 identify the future Articles looking forward today? Is it Article 11?
14 12? Can you identify what Articles you're adding in as part of this
15 amendment? Just identify them out loud so we can look, like one is
16 \$8,000, one is \$50,000.

17 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: My understanding, Mr. Breen, is that you are
18 looking at Articles 10 and 15. The other Articles because they are
19 trust funds are authorized as separate appropriations under the
20 Charter.

21 MR. BREEN: Just Article 15 as we look ahead in the meeting?

22 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Yes. And the Citizen's Petitions can be
23 separate according to the Charter. So, it's Article 10 and 15 only.

24 MR. BREEN: All right, so we're going to take up the other ones
25 if this is amended. Thank you.

26 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Yes, thank you. Seeing no one else rising to
27 the microphone, I will now call for a vote on the amendment to the
28 Operating... Where? Oh, over there? Thank you. Mr. Hatch?

29 COUNCILOR HATCH: I just wanted to address Mr. Goddu's question.
30 It's already been determined, I believe by the attorneys that, with

1 10, if that were to pass, if I heard that right, we can't collect that
2 money anyway. So, he said the tax rate was going to go up with this
3 amended of the Operational Budget. It doesn't, we're just shifting
4 money. The tax rate is still going to be the same if everything passes
5 because of course when we get to Article 15, we're just going to make
6 that a dollar. So.

7 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Mr. Goddu.

8 MR. GODDU: I would just like to encourage everybody to not vote
9 for this amendment. Leave the Operating Budget at the amount that was
10 originally approved and that will allow us to send this Article to
11 the voters with recommendation. It's a big chance that you're going
12 to run without our recommendation that you'd lose \$11 million. I don't
13 want the Town to lose \$11 million. I want them to not spend the money
14 that are in these separate Warrant Articles, specifically the \$277,000
15 that's in that extra maintenance program. So, I'm just encouraging
16 everyone to vote against the amendment.

17 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Goddu. Seeing no one further
18 to the microphone, I will now call for a vote on the amendment. All
19 those in favor of the amendment as proposed to change the value in
20 the Operating Budget from \$73,569,114 to \$73,861,954, please signify
21 by saying 'aye.' Those opposed. It was my opinion that the 'ayes' have
22 it.

23 MR. GODDU: Standing vote, please.

24 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Is there a second? There are two people
25 requesting a standing vote on the amendment for the Operating Budget.
26 Mr. Goodnow? All right I will count the lower section. Mr. Goodnow
27 will take the upper section. Please take your seats. If you are in
28 favor of the amendment as proposed by the Town Council, please stand
29 at this time. And if you are opposed to the amendment proposed by the
30 Town Council please stand at this time. It passes by a vote of 42 to
31 19. So, we have adopted the amendment to Article 8. Is there further
32 discussion on Article 8? This is the Operating Budget.

1 MS. MOSS: Move to restrict reconsideration.

2 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: We haven't, we have, is there further
3 discussion or is this a, is there any, before I entertain that motion,
4 is there any further discussion on Article 8? Seeing no further
5 discussion, I will refer Article 8 as amended to the Town Clerk for
6 inclusion on the ballot to be voted upon March 11, 2025. I will now
7 entertain Ms. Moss's motion to restrict reconsideration. Is there a
8 second?

9 COUNCILOR BRYANT: Second.

10 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Seconded by Mr. Bryant. All those in favor
11 of restricting reconsideration on Article 8, please signify by saying
12 'aye.' Those opposed. The 'ayes' have it. We have reconsidered and
13 now restricted reconsideration on Article 8. We are now coming to
14 Article 15 and I will ask Mr. Goodnow to step up here for a moment as
15 I will be presenting some information about this Article.

16 ASSISTANT MODERATOR GOODNOW: Thank you Mr. Moderator. It's a
17 little bit off-putting that in his first year, he's running the most
18 efficient Deliberative Session I've been a member of or in attendance
19 of. So, that's very well-done Moderator Campbell.

20 **Article 15: Redistribution of Election Districts \$15,000**

21 ASSISTANT MODERATOR GOODNOW: Shall the Town vote to raise and
22 appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to cover
23 expenses associated with implementing a redistribution of the Town's
24 election districts? This redistribution plan includes reducing the
25 number of polling places from five to four by closing the Soule School
26 polling district, relocating the Senior Center polling district to
27 the Woodbury School, and renumbering the districts to ensure they are
28 consecutive. There is recommendation for with from the Town Council.
29 And speaking to Article 15, Mr. Campbell.

30 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: I'm going to actually yield to Mr. Hatch I
31 believe he's going to, oh, yes, Ms. Withrow.

32 ASSISTANT MODERATOR GOODNOW: Councilor Withrow.

1 COUNCILOR WITHROW: So, I move Article 15 to the ballot.

2 COUNCILOR BRYANT: Second.

3 ASSISTANT MODERATOR GOODNOW: Moved by Councilor Withrow and
4 seconded by Councilor Bryant. Speaking to Article 15.

5 COUNCILOR WITHROW: I'm going to offer an amendment to zero this
6 out to \$0 please.

7 COUNCILOR STACEY: Second.

8 ASSISTANT MODERATOR GOODNOW: So there's an amendment on the floor
9 by Councilor Withrow that is seconded by Councilor Stacey to reduce
10 the dollar amount to zero and from an informational standpoint as just
11 indicated in the answer to Chief Breen that is relative to putting it
12 back into the Operating Budget. So, there is a motion to zero this
13 dollar amount on Article 15. Is there discussion on this amendment?
14 Seeing no, oh, Ms. Sorcinelli.

15 MS. SORCINELLI: Just a question, what is the dollar amount
16 related to in this Article?

17 COUNCILOR WITHROW: The cost of employees to put it together, to
18 organize the whole day, make it happen. Oh, you're right, and the
19 mailings.

20 MS. SORCINELLI: Oh, okay. Great.

21 ASSISTANT MODERATOR GOODNOW: Further discussion on the amendment
22 to Article 15, which would zero out the dollar amount? Mr. Norcross,
23 you're just taking a walk, stretching your legs? Okay. Seeing no one
24 rise to the microphone we will now vote on the amendment to Article
25 15, which would have the effect of zeroing it out from \$15,000 to \$0.
26 So, to be specific and it's an excellent point by Counsel, we would,
27 to conform, we would need to reduce it to a dollar. We can't zero it
28 out.

29 COUNCILOR WITHROW: So, moved.

30 ASSISTANT MODERATOR GOODNOW: And so that is the amendment on the

1 floor that is again moved by Councilor Withrow and seconded by
2 Councilor Stacey. So, we are amending this from \$15,000 to \$1. We are
3 now voting on that proposed amendment. If you are in favor of that
4 amendment, please indicate by saying 'aye.' If you're opposed 'no.'
5 And the 'ayes' have it. And so now we are back to discussing Article
6 15 as amended. Speaking to Article 15, Councilor Withrow.

7 COUNCILOR WITHROW: This article funds the redistribution of
8 Salem's election districts to enhance efficiency and better align with
9 current voter needs. By reducing the number of polling places and
10 consolidating resources, the Town seeks to improve accessibility,
11 reduce operational costs, and ensure a streamlined election process.
12 The renumbering of districts ensures consistency and clarity for all
13 voters. It originated with the Town Council and the rate impact now
14 is zero.

15 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Councilor. If you don't mind, I'll
16 speak a little bit about this. This is a plan that's been in
17 development for about a year now. Following the last March election,
18 I was tasked with then Moderator at the time Goodnow to develop a
19 redistricting plan for the Town of Salem. And serving in my capacity
20 as Assistant Moderator I produced and worked with very many people:
21 the Supervisors of the Checklist, the folks at Town Hall, John Vogel
22 was very helpful, the Community Development Directors and staff were
23 very helpful. The last redistricting took place in Salem in 2014. We
24 went from six polling locations and then from four and then we went
25 back, uh, from six to four in 2012 and then back to five in 2014
26 because we faced some challenges. And you might wonder why those
27 aren't going to be present now and I'm going to address that. Our
28 voter registration on January 7, 2015, was 19,658. Our current voter
29 registration as of 4th of February 2025 was 21,376. The anticipated
30 growth in the near future for the completed Tuscan Village buildout,
31 the Depot and Main apartment complex, there is a subdivision going in
32 on Brady Avenue, and I'm sure there are many others throughout the
33 community that housing continues to be built. You can look there on

1 the right-hand side of your screen at the breakdown of where the
2 voters are. I want you to specifically pay attention to the numbers
3 at the Soule School. 4,076 voters now registered in the Soule district
4 and I'm going to highlight that as we go along. Next slide please.
5 Our review of our existing facilities, you can see that on the map.
6 That is our current districts. Staffing is a challenge to staff five
7 polling locations and the locations are unevenly distributed
8 throughout the town. Some locations are better equipped than others
9 to handle large crowds. The Soule School in particular is under severe
10 pressure to take Tuscan Village voters as the Tuscan Village a part
11 of the Soule District at the moment. And of all our five polling
12 locations, Soule is perhaps least equipped to handle this influx of
13 voters. In this year's Presidential Primary, the State election
14 observer from the Secretary of State's Office specifically singled
15 out Soule and the Senior Center as lacking capacity to handle the
16 crowds. And so, that is something that we wanted to address. Next
17 slide please. I'm just reviewing each of our polling locations in
18 turn. The North Salem voters by checklist 5,262. that is an average
19 of 82 voters per parking space in a Presidential primary or
20 Presidential election because that assumes that school is closed and
21 there's no staff or parents attending that day. There are two entrances
22 to the parking lot, one exit. We can fit forty-five polling booths or
23 more in the gym. It is, North Salem's gym is a little bit larger than
24 some of the others and then there are the main parking area has sixty-
25 four spaces of which three are considered handicapped accessible for
26 the purposes of election day. Next slide. Here's the Barron School.
27 We can get 40+ polling stations in Barron School gym. Most of the main
28 parking area is about forty-one spaces. There's a secondary parking
29 area and then there's an overflow parking area at Barron School with
30 four points of entry, exit from the parking lot onto either Butler
31 Street or Frasier Drive although the overflow parking area is more
32 than 180 yards from the entrance to the polling location which poses
33 a challenge for some of our voters who are mobility challenged. Barron,
34 sorry, Barron School has 3,274 voters. That's an average of 38 voters

1 per parking space. Moving on to the Fisk School, one entrance and
2 exit. If you vote at the Fisk School, you know that that does pose
3 some challenges in terms of traffic flow. We can get about 30 or more
4 on a pinch into the Fisk Gym. It's smaller compared to some others.
5 Right now it had about 3,600 voters by checklist. There is traffic
6 flow issues at certain times of the day can be an issue. My slides
7 got overlapped or my texts got overlapped. I apologize. The main
8 parking area is about 75 spaces. It's about 48 voters per parking
9 space. In the redistricting plan that we performed, one of the concerns
10 back in 2014 when we redistricted down to four was that particularly
11 Fisk was pinched significantly if some of you will remember that
12 experience. One of the goals of this current redistricting plan was
13 to maintain Fisk as flat to the voter registration at the time when I
14 was working up these numbers. So, you'll see that this number is not
15 going to change very much because we think Fisk is pretty much at
16 capacity. I'm moving on. The Senior Center, one entrance and exit onto
17 Sally Sweets Way. There's overflow parking on Sally Sweets Way. In
18 fact, we encourage most of our staff to park on the street on,
19 particularly for Presidential elections. Main parking area is 114
20 spaces. Voters by checklist 5,416. On-site parking 124 spaces. We do
21 hold off about ten of those spaces to be used for the folks who are
22 holding signs on Election Day. And so, we have about sixty voters per
23 parking space. One note about the Senior Center is this does, Election
24 Day does require us to close the Senior Center, which means that
25 facility is not available to the folks who would usually use it on
26 Election Day, which is one of the things that we took in mind. And
27 finally, the Soule School, okay, right now we have 4,076 voters by
28 checklist. That's 48 voters per parking space, but as anyone who's
29 been to Soule School knows, that main parking area is very small.
30 There's only about 28 spaces and most of the space is more than 200
31 yards away. I was not able to find anyone to get me any pictures of
32 what Play Camp Road looked like on the November Election Day. But if
33 you were there, I believe that Chief Lemire would say the Fire
34 Department would have found it a challenge to get apparatus down Play

1 Camp Road to the residents on Play Camp Road given how many people
2 parked up and down the street. So that is a concern as well. Okay.
3 And so, this is, continue on please, thank you. You know, Soule has
4 seen the largest increase in turnout over the last three Presidential
5 elections compared to the other polling locations. If you look over
6 the last three Presidential elections, Soule's increase has been 775
7 voters by turnout from 2016 to 2024. It also saw the longest wait
8 times of any polling locations during the November election. It was
9 consistently at about forty minutes all day long. Okay. And as you
10 can see from the photograph, I was able to get, thank you Salem
11 Community Television, that line wrapped around all the way out to
12 South Policy at various times of the day. Okay. So, the proposed
13 challenges would be to relocate the current District 4 polling
14 location from the Senior Center to the Woodbury School, the newly
15 renovated Woodbury School. And this has been done in conjunction with
16 Ms. Palmer and the School District staff, and Mr. Barry, the principal
17 of Woodbury School. They are aware and they are supportive and they
18 had coordinated with me on this information. It would eliminate Soule
19 School as a polling location. It would renumber the districts. Right
20 now, your districts are 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6. There's no district 5. It
21 causes some confusion. We renumber them 1, 2, 3, and 4. Woodbury
22 provides a better location for parking and traffic flow standpoint.
23 It reduces the number of polling locations, alleviates the staffing
24 issues that we have staffing elections, and it better positions the
25 town to handle future growth and voting populations. So that's going
26 to look like this if we, if we continue, please. Here's the proposed
27 map. You can see they've been renumbered 1, 2, 3, and 4. These numbers
28 have been updated with the most current checklist. I actually spent a
29 good chunk of my snow day working on this on Thursday. North Salem
30 would be at 5,245 voters. Woodbury would take on 8,542. Fisk would
31 stay relatively flat at 3,527, and Barron would see an increase at
32 4,323. Just a comparison of the district maps, you can see the
33 elimination of the Soule District ends up being split between Barron,
34 Fisk, and Woodbury. Woodbury ends up taking in the Tuscan Village and

1 Pleasant Street areas, particularly the Depot and Main apartment
2 building would be at the Woodbury. That helps keep future growth in
3 the Fisk District limited. There is, obviously, there will continue
4 to be development in that part of town, but by putting those two areas
5 in Woodbury in particular, it alleviates some of the pressure on Fisk.
6 The North Salem District doesn't shift much. There is a little bit of
7 what we call geographic continuity change going up Shannon Road.
8 Looking at the map originally kind of always bugged me. One thing that
9 you probably don't know is that when I was in college as a freshman,
10 I took a freshman seminar in redistricting and learned all about
11 gerrymandering and bullwinkles and all kinds of fun things. And we
12 talked about geographic compactness quite a bit so. It eliminates that
13 sort of spur up into what we would consider North Salem territory and
14 makes for four relatively compact districts. Next slide please. And
15 this is what we would, this is what the differences would be. Currently
16 at North Salem we're registered 5,416. We'd see a reduction in 171
17 voters. Barron would see an increase. Fisk would actually lose about
18 82 voters. Senior Center/ Woodbury would increase, but that's because
19 of the increase capacity and Soule would be closed. Continue. So, just
20 to run down and I'll make this quick, voters by checklist would be
21 5,245. That'd be 82 voters per parking space. North Salem, continuing
22 please. Barron School you'd see we'd have about 50 voters per parking
23 space, but we believe with four entry points and exits out of the
24 parking lot, the traffic flow is considerably better than in some of
25 the other locations, and the size of the gym is such that we believe
26 we can get the number of voting booths into that gym. Fisk School, as
27 I said, would stay flat. And then here's the Woodbury School. This
28 would be the Woodbury. Three entrances and exits. You have the two
29 main entrances on the Woodbury side of the street, but we also have a
30 secondary parking area across the street. We've got over 280 parking
31 spaces at Woodbury available to us for a Presidential election when
32 schools are closed. That's 34 voters per parking and with the way the
33 traffic pattern is laid out we anticipate that moving in and out of
34 that facility will be very smooth. This would be the exterior entrances

1 to the Woodbury gym. You can see the entrance from the parking lot,
2 to the parking lot from the handicapped accessible spaces is flat and
3 relatively short for our mobility challenged voters. This is the
4 interior of the Woodbury gym. If you haven't seen it, it's beautiful,
5 but it's also huge and so we'll be able to accommodate large numbers
6 of polling booths. Restrooms are located directly off the gym. This
7 is important for times when school is in session such as a Municipal
8 Election. This means that the Woodbury gym can be entirely sealed and
9 self-dependent from the rest of the Woodbury School, which means that
10 there can be no voter interaction between students and voters for
11 school safety purposes. You can see that the doors to the Woodbury
12 interior can be secured while school is in session and so that way
13 there can be no movement of voters into school areas. There's no need
14 for it because there are restrooms directly off the gym. Okay. In a
15 Presidential Election when school is closed, we can use the lobby
16 areas for the Supervisors of the Checklist to register voters on same
17 day registration. You can see just kind of a sample layout and flow,
18 a separate entrance. You've got your check-in tables, and then you've
19 got rows of voting booths. You've got some tables for your paper
20 checklist, ballot machines at the back of the hall, and then a flow
21 back out the same way folks came in. We believe this is going to be
22 smooth and we anticipate an excellent transition. There was some
23 question and I'm apologizing for how small this is. It wasn't this
24 small on my computer. Why not Salem High School? Okay. For the simple
25 fact, and I'll keep this brief, neither the Davis Gym, which is located
26 outside this building, outside this room or the lower gym can be
27 sealed off from the rest of this school while school is in session.
28 The building would have to be closed if we were to have voting here
29 because of the number of people in and out all day. There are no
30 restrooms directly off the Davis Gym. There's no restrooms directly
31 off the lower gym. So, voters would have to, or voting or election
32 staff would have to enter the main school building in order to use
33 the restroom throughout the day. Also, the parking situation at Salem
34 High School, while we have plenty of parking, is not ideal for an

1 election, particularly for those who may be mobility challenged. The
2 lower gym, which in theory probably has enough space to take the whole
3 town in, it's huge. I don't know if you've ever been down there, but
4 it's like an airplane hangar down there. Doesn't have any parking
5 associated with it that would be convenient for anyone to come. Could
6 you advance the slide please? Okay. You can see there's a staff parking
7 area at the back of the building, about 150 spaces. We estimate that
8 we get more than 200 voting stations in the lower gym, but there are
9 some physical challenges to getting into that space, in terms of
10 distance having to walk, limited public access to that location. Even
11 the PAC and the Davis Gym is of limited accessibility with a more than
12 100 yard walk to the lower parking lot and even the handicapped parking
13 spaces along the front are uphill, which does pose some challenges,
14 particularly at a March election in the wintertime when it's snowing.
15 You can see this is the view from the PAC entrance down to the main
16 parking. It's quite some distance and that's in the summertime. Here's
17 the lower gym. In order to get there from this level you have to go
18 down a fairly significant set of stairs or use an elevator. Lower gym
19 obviously has an enormous capacity, but from a standpoint of access.
20 Can you continue please? There's the stairs at the back of the building
21 and there's a ramp, but again in order to access that you have to go
22 through the main building. And you can see the distance to the rear
23 parking. Okay, you can continue on. Thank you. Restrooms are not self-
24 contained, can only be accessed through the school building. The
25 access ramp can only enter through the school building for the lower
26 gym. Okay, so it's just not real feasible and people have asked why
27 don't we just all vote at the High School? It's just not real feasible
28 in order to maintain school in session, particularly for Municipal
29 elections or statewide primaries. So, the timeline, this was proposed
30 and presented to the Town Council last summer. Okay. The community is
31 going to have an opportunity to vote on this plan in the March election
32 in next March. The timeline would then be informing everyone of the
33 changes through the summer of 2025. The nice thing about doing this
34 now is the next election isn't for another year. There's no election

1 in September this year. There's no election in November this year.
2 This gives us a full year to get the word out. And then a Municipal
3 Election before we then have to face another statewide primary or
4 State general election. So, this is the perfect time to pursue this
5 right? And the March 2026 election would be the first election in the
6 new polling location. I want to thank you for your time and listening
7 and if you have any questions, I'll be happy to answer them.
8 questions.

9 ASSISTANT MODERATOR GOODNOW: I want to expound on one point.
10 Moderator Campbell indicated that he had taken a seminar on
11 redistricting as an undergraduate. I want you to make it clear that
12 that was not his core requirement. That was an elective. Like I'm
13 either awed by that or concerned and I'm just not sure which. Speaking
14 to Article 15 as amended, Mr. Goddu.

15 MR. GODDU: I would like to suggest that we've already determined
16 that these financial Articles are illegal and in conflict with the
17 Town Charter. This is not a referendum on whether or not we ought to
18 redistrict. I'm in favor of the plan. It looks like a good plan, but
19 that's not what this Article is. This is a financial Article that is
20 in conflict with the Town Charter, and I believe it's inappropriate
21 for us to forward this to the ballot and I move to strike it from the
22 ballot.

23 ASSISTANT MODERATOR GOODNOW: Prior to taking that up, further
24 discussion on Article 15 as amended? Mr. Norcross.

25 MR. NORCROSS: My work will depend on whether we're able to, I
26 guess, point of information, are we allowed to strike it? Are you
27 going to accept that motion?

28 ASSISTANT MODERATOR GOODNOW: So, in discussion with Counsel
29 relative to Article 15, speaking specifically to the Charter 2.5, the
30 dollar amount can be amended, but the actual Article itself cannot be
31 eliminated. Under the Charter, it's my interpretation from Counsel's
32 comments that the Council actually has a final determination on this.

1 So, relative to the amendment to reduce the financial amount, but you
2 cannot eliminate this in whole. Mr. Norcross.

3 MR. NORCROSS: Mr. Moderator, are we allowed to make amendments
4 to the Warrant? To propose amendments?

5 ASSISTANT MODERATOR GOODNOW: Well, so let's hear your proposed
6 amendment.

7 MR. NORCROSS: Great. Proceed. I'll come back to you.

8 ASSISTANT MODERATOR GOODNOW: Mr. Campbell.

9 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Yeah, I think Mr. Norcross and I are on the
10 same wavelength because I was going to offer an amendment as well.
11 And this would be my amendment and that is: Shall the Town and
12 eliminate all of the first two lines and replace them with shall the
13 Town pursue a redistricting plan including reducing the number of
14 polling places and so on and remove any reference to money because
15 this does need to be authorized by the voters in order to move forward.
16 But by removing any reference to money it no longer is illegal and
17 therefore it would authorize the redistricting to go forward with the
18 money that's been appropriated through the budget and that way it
19 would be approved by the voters and have no dollar impact.

20 ASSISTANT MODERATOR GOODNOW: So, again speaking with Counsel we
21 could not eliminate this Article, but we could amend it. And I'm going
22 to recognize that that amendment is in order. Mr. Campbell, Moderator
23 Campbell has made an amendment to Article 15.

24 MR. HARGREAVES: Second.

25 MS. THORNOCK: Point of order.

26 ASSISTANT MODERATOR GOODNOW: Wait, we're not going anywhere. I'll
27 give you a sec. Mr. Campbell has made an amendment to Article 15. I'll
28 obviously need that in writing. Is there a second to that amendment?

29 MR. HARGREAVES: Second.

30 ASSISTANT MODERATOR GOODNOW: There is a second by Mr. Hargreaves.

1 Speaking to the amendment to Article 15, Ms. Thornock.

2 MS. THORNOCK: I believe that we are actually out of order because
3 we already have an amendment that we need to vote on. So, first we
4 have to get through the first amendment and then we can do the second
5 amendment.

6 ASSISTANT MODERATOR GOODNOW: So, my recollection is, ma'am, we
7 already voted, we took ayes and nays, and I made a determination aye
8 and passed that amendment. So, but it's a good point of order. We in
9 this Body take one item up at a time. We dispense with it, and then
10 we move on. My recollection, but I'm 108 years old nowadays, so I
11 wouldn't swear to it in Federal Court, but I believe we voted on that
12 amendment, and it was passed in the affirmative. So, there is an
13 amendment that's been moved and seconded by Moderator Campbell to
14 change Article 15 to state as follows: "Shall the Town pursue a
15 redistribution plan including reducing the number of polling places
16 from five to four by closing the Soule School polling district,
17 relocating the Senior Center polling district to the Woodbury School,
18 and renumbering the districts to ensure they are consecutive." We are
19 now speaking to the amendment, that amendment is on the floor. Seeing
20 no one rise, oh, Mr. Thornock. Speaking to the amendment to Article
21 15.

22 MR. THORNOCK: So, I did want to make a point of order. I
23 understand the purpose. I support the redistricting, but I also
24 support governing under, under the law and that amendment changes the
25 purpose. The purpose of this Warrant is to raise the funds so that
26 you can perform this other function. I would, I would argue that we
27 need to reduce the dollar amount so that we're not violating the law
28 which requires no changes, no amendments that change the purpose of
29 the Warrant. That's all I have.

30 ASSISTANT MODERATOR GOODNOW: So, and I would speak to Counsel,
31 but I don't have to. The purpose of the amendment is relative to
32 redistricting. So, you can change an amendment to, you can amend

1 something to frankly have the opposite effect of redistricting, but
2 it's still relative to redistricting. So, this amendment is in order,
3 and I feel strongly about that. Mr. Davis.

4 MR. DAVIS: Just a point of clarification with Mr. Hatch's when
5 we did with the budget figure, was this dollar value rolled into that?
6 Okay. Thank you. I just wanted to be clear we weren't doing an unfunded
7 mandate that everybody gets upset about.

8 ASSISTANT MODERATOR GOODNOW: So, the effect of this was the
9 \$14,999 was included in the amendment to Article 10, which was the
10 Operating Budget. So we are now speaking toward the amendment relative
11 to basically deletes the dollar amount in its entirety, deletes the
12 first sentence in almost totality and specific to this amendment, it's
13 about a redistricting plan on the last two sentences. So, we're now...
14 Mr. Representative Sytek.

15 JOHN SYTEK, 34 TOWN VILLAGE DRIVE: Of course I'm in favor of
16 this, but doesn't this constitute a language change which I thought
17 would be as prohibited at the start of the meeting. If it's not allowed
18 the whole Article may not be proper, but still a language change
19 attempted.

20 ASSISTANT MODERATOR GOODNOW: No, not for this Article that is.
21 So, you can, you can change the language in this type of Article and
22 in fact you could change it to whatever the opposite impact as long
23 as it's still on the subject of redistricting. So, this amendment is
24 in order. I feel very strongly about that. So, seeing no one rise to
25 the microphone we will now vote on the amendment to Article 15, which
26 would again have the effect. I'll just restate it one more time.
27 "Shall the Town pursue a redistribution plan including reducing the
28 number of polling places from five to four by closing the Soule School
29 polling district, relocating the Senior Center polling district to
30 the Woodbury School, and renumbering the districts to ensure they are
31 consecutive." If you are in favor of this amendment, please indicate
32 by saying 'aye.' If you're opposed 'nay.' And the ayes have it. So

1 now we are back to the floor, speaking to Article 15 as amended.
2 Seeing no one, oh, are you rising to speak to this? Okay, never mind.
3 Thank you, Attorney Campbell. He's taking a call. And so, seeing no
4 one rise I will refer Article 15 as amended to the Town Clerk for
5 inclusion on the ballot to be voted upon March 11, 2025.

6 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Don't run away Mr. Goodnow. Before we move
7 on to our citizens' petition Warrant Articles, we do want to take a
8 moment and recognize the long, long service that Mr. Goodnow has given
9 this town as Moderator. And we have here a token of our appreciation
10 to you from the Town. Serving from 2008 to 2024, Mr. Goodnow has
11 served this community for many, many years as Town Moderator, but also
12 School District Moderator and we are very appreciative of the service
13 that he has given to this town selflessly year after year and we would
14 like to thank him and present him with this token of our gratitude by
15 the Town and the Town Council. Thank you, Mr. Goodnow. Before and I
16 will recognize Mr. Goodnow to say a moment or two of words. But I also
17 have a small gift of a token of appreciation from me directly. Many
18 moons ago at a Town Meeting, many moons ago, we were discussing, I
19 believe it was either a police station or a fire station. And we were
20 talking about, you know, the need to raise taxes, and I got up to the
21 microphone and I said, you know, something along the lines of following
22 the Franco-Prussian War, the French Government passed a special tax
23 and raised the money to pay off the German reparations in three years.
24 Let's just get this done. Since that time, Mr. Goodnow has taken it
25 upon himself to remind me of that comment just about any time I speak
26 at Town Meeting. So, as a token of my personal appreciation to him, I
27 present to him Geoffrey Wawro's History of the Franco-Prussian War:
28 The German Conquest of France in 1870-1871.

29 ASSISTANT MODERATOR GOODNOW: Thank you, Mr. Campbell, I was
30 anticipating cash, but that's fine. Yeah, so a couple of quick
31 comments. First, the elections are a team effort. It is an unbelievable
32 contribution by the citizens of this community. This team is headed
33 up by Town Clerk, Susan Wall, but we have a very experienced team of

1 officials. I see Moderator Carney here and Moderator Campbell,
2 Moderator Emerson, Ellen Emerson in a plethora of people we have on
3 election day including the Supervisors of the Checklist. About 150
4 people that work these elections. It is the best of what we do as a
5 community. It is citizens coming back and serving themselves. The
6 accuracy of our elections is absolute, and you can believe in them.
7 And so, I appreciate that. For myself, just personally, I'm halfway
8 through training to become a New Hampshire football official. So, if
9 you see me running along the sidelines of a football field in a striped
10 shirt and you think it looks like me, you're not hallucinating. So,
11 I'm moving on to other endeavors and so, thank you very much. I
12 appreciate it.

13 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: I'd like to point out that he's moving from
14 a different type of referee, one referee to another. All right,
15 continuing on with our Agenda. We've been moving at such a good clip.
16 All right moving to Article 16.

17 **Article 16: By Petition: Kelley Library Elevator Repair \$15,083**

18 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: By Petition: Shall the Town vote to raise
19 and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Eighty-Three Dollars
20 (\$15,083) for the purpose of being added to the Kelley Library Capital
21 Reserve Fund to replace the elevator's rusted hydraulic fluid tank.
22 This was voted with recommendation by the Town Council and the Budget
23 Committee. Is there someone to move the Article? Ms. Norton.

24 KATE NORTON, 22 ALTA AVENUE, KELLEY LIBRARY TRUSTEE: I move the
25 motion.

26 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Is there a second?

27 COUNCILOR STACEY: Second.

28 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Seconded by Councilor Stacey. To speak to
29 the Budget Committee's recommendation, Chairman Boyer.

30 CHAIRMAN BOYER: The Budget Committee voted unanimously to move
31 Warrant Article #16 as read with approval.

1 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Okay, I'll ask Ms. Norton to speak and I will
2 remind folks that the next several Articles are by petition and
3 therefore by nature not included in the Budget and therefore are not
4 subject to some of the other restrictions we've discussed this evening
5 or this morning rather. It feels like the evening. All right, moving
6 on. Ms. Norton, please, to discuss your Article.

7 MS. NORTON: Thank you. After the Kelley Library Trustees
8 submitted their annual budget, at a routine quarterly inspection for
9 our elevator we were notified that the hydraulic tank is leaking and
10 needs to be replaced. The \$15,000 we are asking for is to supplement
11 what we already have in our Capital Reserve Fund in addition to the
12 \$8,000 that was transferred, that will be transferred if it's voted
13 for. It will, we will then have the \$31,000 we need for this new tank.
14 It is original to the addition to the Library from the 70's and we
15 cannot operate the Library without an elevator.

16 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Ms. Norton. Others to speak to
17 the Article? Seeing no one rise to speak to the Article, I will refer
18 Article 16, as printed on the Warrant to the Town Clerk for inclusion
19 on the ballot to be voted upon March 11, 2025. Article 18 by petition,
20 Isaiah 58. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of,
21 oh, 17. My apologies, I did it again.

22 **Article 17: By Petition: The Upper Room \$7,500**

23 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: By Petition: Shall the Town vote to raise
24 and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
25 (\$7,500) for the purpose of strengthening individuals and families by
26 providing them with the education services and resources needed to
27 lead healthy self-sufficient lives through The Upper Room, a Family
28 Resource Center's 18 prevention, intervention, and engagement programs
29 for children, youth, and families? This was voted by the Town Council
30 without recommendation and by the Budget Committee without
31 recommendation. I'll recognize the gentleman at the microphone to move
32 the Article.

1 RUTH MARIE KAY: I'm the grant writer at the Upper Room and I'm
2 going to keep it brief. I just want to let you know...

3 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Ma'am, I need you to move the Article first.
4 To say so moved.

5 MS. KAY: So moved the Article.

6 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Is there a second?

7 MR. HARGREAVES: Point of order.

8 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Oh, I'm sorry ma'am. You are not a resident.
9 You can't move the Article. It has to be moved by someone. Okay, Mr.
10 Hargreaves.

11 MR. HARGREAVES: I'll move the Article.

12 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Moves the Article. There's a second I see in
13 the audience. To speak to the Article, actually I'll recognize the
14 Chairman of the Budget Committee for their recommendation first and
15 then I'll come to you ma'am.

16 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. The Budget Committee
17 wanted to acknowledge that there are many people in town who could
18 utilize these services as the value of those services should not be
19 diminished in any way. We appreciate The Upper Room coming, but it's
20 just a matter of being in our Operating Budget that's problematic.
21 The Budget Committee majority focuses on Town business matters, and
22 we don't feel that charity selection should be with taxpayer dollars.
23 Our current Operating Budget already has several previously approved
24 annual charities now totaling over \$106,000 a year. A majority of the
25 Budget Committee feels that we should not be tasked with picking
26 approved charities, which is why charities must prove themselves as
27 being on the ballot for three years. The Budget Committee struggles
28 to reduce the Operating Budget items to keep our percentage tax rates
29 within a reasonable range. What we have asked taxpayers to fund or
30 not fund in other areas of the budget, it would not be prudent
31 unfortunately to add this to the budget. If the taxpayers really want

1 their tax dollars going to these charities for voters, the voter can
2 override in March on the ballot that will send a message to the Town
3 Council and the Budget Committee for reconsideration going forward.
4 With that said, the majority of the Budget Committee voted to move on
5 Article 17 as read without approval.

6 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Ma'am.

7 MS. KAY: I just wanted to have the citizens understand the value
8 of the services that The Upper Room provided just last year. We had
9 thirty-nine people that we served with direct services, that means
10 face to face. And those thirty-nine people participated in eleven of
11 our eighteen programs and the value of those services was \$7,004. On
12 top of that, The Upper Room helped twenty-nine individuals in eleven
13 families receive concrete support. School supplies, backpacks, holiday
14 meals, gift cards, winter coats, boots, etc. Some of these families
15 were duplicated in the number 39 that I previously gave, but not all
16 of them. In addition, Salem families received \$7,324 in additional
17 support through the Trestle Fund to fill an immediate financial need,
18 not typically covered by public programs. Medical bills, rental
19 assistance, car repairs, electric bill, buying a bicycle for a child,
20 paying tuition for a summer camp for a child in need. That's pretty
21 much what I wanted you to know. That what we're asking for is less
22 than half of what we expend every year. And I appreciate the
23 opportunity to speak to you.

24 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Further on Article 17? Sir.

25 PAUL PARISI, 29 SULLIVAN AVENUE: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. I rise
26 in support of this Article for The Upper Room. I happen to have, be a
27 beneficiary of the wonderful work that The Upper Room does. I had a
28 family member who struggled throughout his course of school and
29 ultimately ended up at The Upper Room where he was able to achieve
30 his HISET and without it, I'm not sure where we would be. So, while I
31 was a part of that program, I saw the amazing work that they did in
32 addition to the HISET. They do work with substance use disorder. They

1 do work with mental health and in addition to being able to help
2 families that are financially not secure. So, I thank you for the time
3 and I support this Article. Thank you.

4 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Further on Article 17? Ms.
5 Loranger.

6 MS. LORANGER: I'm speaking on behalf of this amendment. I sit on
7 the Board of Directors for a nonprofit in town that also utilizes The
8 Upper Room. We're partners with them. Salem Family Resources, Cindy
9 Jury. It's \$7,500. We take far more resources from them than we give
10 to them. We are not the only town supporting The Upper Room. So, we
11 need to do the part like all the other towns and vote this pro, vote
12 for this Warrant Article. It's about the kids. Thanks.

13 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Ms. Loranger. Further on Article
14 17? Ms. Moss

15 MS. MOSS: I just wanna, I know everyone is talking about this,
16 like this is charity and this is us authorizing the Town to give
17 charity to a charity group. But we are legally required to provide
18 services to homeless people in our town and if these organizations
19 did not exist these costs would be in our budget and we would likely
20 provide them at a much higher cost than we're getting by pooling our
21 resources with other towns and putting them in an organization that
22 is well managed and well run and targeted towards this thing. So, I
23 really wish we stop looking at it as charity and looking at it as we
24 are contracting with The Upper Room to help provide these services to
25 our citizens that we are legally required to provide. So, this isn't
26 just we think they're great, sure they are great and they do great
27 services, but if they didn't do them, we would have to do them so it
28 makes financial sense to partner with this organization and I won't
29 repeat myself, but Article 18 same, that we should approve this and
30 that this is a good financial decision. Thank you.

31 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: No applause. Thank you. Is there any further
32 on Article 17? Seeing none, I will refer Article 17, as printed on

1 the Warrant to the Town Clerk for inclusion on the ballot to be voted
2 upon March 11, 2025.

3 **Article 18: By Petition: Isaiah 58** **\$10,000**

4 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: By Petition: Shall the Town vote to raise
5 and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the
6 purpose of providing housing and/or services to the unhoused or
7 housing insecure population of the Town of Salem through Isaiah 58
8 NH? This was voted without recommendation by the Town Council and
9 without recommendation by the Budget Committee. Is there someone, a
10 resident, to move the Article?

11 MR. DAVIS: I am a resident. I'm also a member of the Board of
12 Directors of Isaiah, so I'd like to move this Article.

13 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: It has been moved. Is there a second?

14 MR. LEWIS: Second.

15 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Seconded here with Mr. Lewis. To speak to
16 the Budget Committee's recommendation, Mr. Boyer.

17 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. Much like Article 17,
18 Budget Committee is falling in line with the Town Council on this one
19 as well. Isaiah 58 is a well-respected organization. We all know that
20 they contribute substantially for housing homeless and it's a
21 difficult task to again put this in our Operating Budget. Isaiah had
22 fallen off our preferred charity list and they are now in a situation
23 where they can go before the voters and the voters can make this
24 decision of whether the voters want Isaiah back on our preferred list,
25 keeping in mind that we are currently, we have \$106,000 of charities
26 that we are currently taking care of and I think Isaiah could probably
27 be one of those but at this point I think the majority of the Budget
28 Committee feels that we should let the voters decide that. So, the
29 majority of the Budget Committee voted to move Warrant Article #18 as
30 read without approval.

31 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Sir, to speak to the Article.

1 MR. DAVIS: Yes, excuse me. I'm also a member or a Board member
2 of Isaiah 58. And I'm here with Ms. Maggie Martin who's the Executive
3 Director to answer any questions about the \$10,000 that we're asking.
4 The assistance that we provide alone, I'll pass it out to the Board,
5 uh, to the Councilors after I'm done, but we provide \$151,600 in
6 direct financial aid to Salem residents. Okay, it's \$151,600 that we
7 help this town with. We're just asking for the Town and for the Council
8 to augment, validate what we do. The fact that when the, as I think
9 Representative Hatch said in the January 15th session, is that when
10 the Council says with something, most people coming in to vote are
11 not aware of the pros and cons of an Article. And when the Council
12 says with, they say well these are the people that we elected, they
13 know something, we're in favor of it so I'll vote in favor of it. When
14 you say without, you kind of create the doubt in people's minds that
15 maybe, well what does the Council know that we don't? Is there
16 something about this organization that maybe, maybe we shouldn't be
17 giving this money. So, I would just urge certainly the voters to vote
18 yes for this. We're a 501c organization. We depend upon donations and
19 grants. We're requesting from the generous citizens of Salem a \$10,000
20 donation to continue our work for Salem residents. And we can assure
21 you that the money you give is used in Salem. It is not used to deal
22 with other residents from other towns. So, to be honest with you,
23 sitting on the Board and I think I speak for the Board, we're a bit
24 disappointed that the Town Council did not choose to support our
25 request because, again, it creates that doubt in the residents of
26 Salem's as to why should I vote for this. If you'd like any more
27 additional information, either myself or Maggie would be very happy
28 to supply that. So, what I'd like to propose is an amendment or make
29 a motion that the Town Council reconsider the recommendation for
30 Salem's 58 request for \$10,000 to assist Isaiah's work for the people
31 of Salem. And as I said, I'm happy to pass out, I've got a page here
32 of all the things that we do to facilitate making this a better
33 community for all of its residents.

1 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: I'm sorry sir, that's not an amendment that
2 really can make. You can't force the Town Council to do that through
3 an amendment process. They can take it up on their own, but that's
4 not...

5 MR. DAVIS: I can't put forward a motion for the Town Council to
6 reconsider.

7 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: I believe that would be out of order. Is that
8 correct? Yeah, they can't. You can't do that.

9 MR. DAVIS: I see. Well, I promise, I promise I'll get you home
10 before the Super Bowl, so thank you. So again we just, we'd encourage
11 the town to vote in favor of this so that we could become part of the,
12 the, normally of the budget. Thank you.

13 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Further from the Meeting? Seeing
14 no one else rise to the mic, are you coming to speak ma'am?

15 CARLA BILLINGHAM, 11 SULLIVAN AVENUE: I'm speaking for this
16 Article. I recognize that there's no way to amend the Article. And I
17 would like to move the Article forward. I support this organization.
18 Someone needs to be protecting people who are without, who are outside,
19 who are home and food insecure, families, not people who just walk
20 through the community. However, we are responsible as a town to serve
21 people as they walk through the community. So, I support this
22 organization wholly and I support this Article.

23 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Further? Seeing nothing further,
24 I will refer Article 18, as printed on the Warrant to the Town Clerk
25 for inclusion on the ballot to be voted upon March 11, 2025. We come
26 to the ultimate Article.

27 **Article 19: By Petition: Field of Dreams** **\$10,000**

28 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: By Petition: Shall the Town vote to raise
29 and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the
30 purpose of maintaining the Field of Dreams and raising funds for
31 improvements? This was voted by the Town Council with recommendation.
32 And voted by the Budget Committee with recommendation. Is there

1 someone to move the Article? Mr. Hargreaves.

2 MR. HARGREAVES: Move. I'm also on the Board of Directors.

3 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: He's moved the Article. Is there a second?

4 COUNCILOR BRYANT: Second

5 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Seconded, I believe that was Councilor
6 Bryant. To speak to the Budget Committee recommendation, Mr. Boyer.

7 CHAIRMAN BOYER: The Budget Committee voted unanimously to move
8 Warrant Article #19 as read with approval.

9 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. To speak to the Article please,
10 Mr. Hargreaves.

11 MR. HARGREAVES: I'm going to give it to my counterpart Matt here.
12 He'll take care of it.

13 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Just state your name for the
14 record, sir.

15 MATT TYLUS, NONRESIDENT: Sure thing. I was raised here. Been a
16 resident for many, many years, currently still have my office here.
17 Also, on the Board of Directors with Pat Hargreaves for the Field of
18 Dreams. This would essentially allow us to hopefully maintain and also
19 improve upon the Field of Dreams. As well as also this year we've
20 partnered with the Salem 275th Committee for the celebration and that
21 would also forego our Family Fun Day in partnership with Salem 275th.
22 Which we would also forego probably roughly in the ballpark of \$20,000
23 to \$30,000 in money that we were bringing in for the organization
24 through that. So, this would just essentially help us maintain and
25 improve the park throughout the year while partnering with the 275th
26 and alleviate some of that stress upon the organization. Thank you.

27 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. To speak to the Article, Ms.
28 Sorcinelli.

29 MS. SORCINELLI: This is a little out of character for me, but I
30 just want to provide a little bit of historical background for the

1 Field of Dreams. The intent of the original founders of this group of
2 community members who wanted to bring this to reality was for the
3 purpose of the community specifically not to ask taxpayers to support
4 this. So, close to 33 years now, the Field of Dreams has never come
5 before this Body and asked for donations from the Town to be included.
6 So, just from historical purposes and I guess that I have the question.
7 I support the Field of Dreams, and this is really outside my box here,
8 but what is the, what is the purpose for the additional \$10,000 that
9 you need?

10 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Mr. Tylus, I'll recognize you to clarify
11 that.

12 MR. TYLUS: Yes, thank you. So basically the purpose of the funds
13 again, like I said, is just to basically assist with us in the
14 maintenance and upkeep, but also to assist with the improvements
15 throughout this year with the Field as well as again replace some
16 structures that are thirty-three years old. For instance, this past
17 year we put in roughly about \$30,000 in the playground structure and
18 replacing rotted boards that were unsafe and repainting the structure.
19 This would basically help us alleviate it. But, on top of that too,
20 it would also help us to make improvements for that Salem 275th
21 Celebration.

22 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Does that answer your question Ms.
23 Sorcinelli?

24 MS. SORCINELLI: Yes, it does. I just want, for any weight that
25 my name or my opinions have I just wanted to bring forth the historical
26 purpose that, you know, the Field of Dreams was supposed to be a
27 community-based effort on behalf of the community without Town
28 involvement or money from Town taxpayers. Thank you.

29 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Mr. Hargreaves.

30 MR. HARGREAVES: Just to let you all know that I've been on the
31 Board of Directors since 19-something okay. And we've never ever asked
32 for a dime from the taxpayers. Okay, we built a \$500,000 theater

1 system over there which is gorgeous and that was through charitable
2 gaming and Chasers Poker Room which is awesome, and we appreciate that
3 very much. We also got new driveways. We got new walkways. We've got
4 a health center over there walking. We got a new concession stand
5 being built. Zero money from the taxpayers. We're in the process of
6 redoing; I think it's a \$3.1 million playground. We plan on raising
7 funds for zero taxpayers' money. Alright, we have movie nights. We
8 have concerts night. Zero taxpayer money. Okay, we have our upkeep,
9 landscaping, tree trimming, tree removal. Stacey's Tree Service helps
10 us with the removal of the trees. No taxpayers' money. Okay, so
11 everything we've done has zero taxpayers' money had taxpayer impact.
12 This year we would say we don't need the money, but we are not doing
13 the Family Fun Day which gives us \$20,000 to \$30,000 to help us to do
14 our landscaping and our maintenance. But we're not doing it this year
15 because the 275th Anniversary is here, so we're losing or we're not
16 making \$30,000. That's all I have to say, so yeah, thirty-three years
17 you're right, we never asked for a taxpayer dime. But since we're not
18 doing one of our major fundraising events. To keep our property or
19 better yet, your property going, we just need \$10,000 to help us.
20 Right, yeah, we'll make up the other \$20,000 somewhere okay. But we
21 need first time in thirty-three years we need a helping hand. Thank
22 you.

23 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Ms. Sorcinelli.

24 MS. SORCINELLI: Mr. Moderator and that, thank you Pat, is exactly
25 the kind of information I was hoping to receive as a direct result.
26 So, thank you for that. I appreciate the clarification.

27 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Further on Article 19? Seeing no one rise to
28 the microphone I will refer Article 19, as printed on the Warrant to
29 the Town Clerk for inclusion on the ballot to be voted upon March 11,
30 2025. That concludes our agenda business. Mr. Hargreaves.

31 MR. HARGREAVES: One question.

32 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Yes, please.

1 MR. HARGREAVES: Councilor Bryant, last year, I want to tell you
2 what you did. Last year, you told me that we were going to get a
3 million dollars every year from Mr. Faro. Have we

4 COUNCILOR BRYANT: No.

5 MR. HARGREAVES: No, you did.

6 COUNCILOR BRYANT: No, I said we were going to get a total of \$3
7 million.

8 MR. HARGREAVES: Correct. So, we got one. And you said you would
9 guarantee me we would get the other one. It's on the record. Did we
10 get the other million?

11 COUNCILOR BRYANT: Mr. Hargreaves.

12 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Councilor Bryant.

13 COUNCILOR BRYANT: Hold on. It takes a second.

14 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: It's on.

15 COUNCILOR BRYANT: Mr. Hargreaves, I don't think I ever have ever,
16 ever in the twenty-one years that I've been in public service here in
17 the town, have I ever said the word guaranteed. We did take a million
18 dollar check from Joe a little over ten months ago or so out in front
19 of the Police Station or maybe a year.

20 MR. HARGREAVES: It was a year ago.

21 COUNCILOR BRYANT: It's totally up to him when he can make those
22 deposits into our bank account. I believe he's got some more
23 development that needs to take place before he can do all that, but I
24 never said that we would get it in consecutive years. Never said that.
25 Never said it at the Meeting, never said it anywhere.

26 MR. HARGREAVES: Can I make a formal request of getting the minutes
27 from last year's meetings, because I am pretty sure he did it because
28 before I said this, I rewatched the meeting. So, can you please bring
29 that up? Thank you.

30 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: Further business before the Meeting?

1 MS. MOSS: Motion to adjourn.

2 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: I heard a motion to adjourn. I believe that

3 was Ms. Moss with the motion to adjourn.

4 MR. LEWIS: Second.

5 MODERATOR CAMPBELL: I see a second from Mr. Lewis. Is there
6 discussion on the motion to adjourn? All those in favor of the motion
7 to adjourn please signify by saying 'aye.' Those opposed. We are
8 adjourned. Thank you everyone.

9 MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:30 AM. *****

10 CERTIFICATION

11

12 I, Jeremiah Lamson, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages are
13 a true and accurate transcript of the 2025 Salem Town Meeting
14 Deliberative Session, held on Saturday, February 8, 2025.

15

16

17

18 Jeremiah Lamson

19 Recording Secretary