

2016 TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2016
TOWN OF BOW, NH

Moderator Peter Imse called the 2016 Town Meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at the Bow Memorial School. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the ballot box was inspected by Moderator Peter Imse and supervisor of the checklist Ms.Sara Swenson, to verify it was empty and voting commenced. At 7:00 p.m. the polls were closed and the meeting adjourned until Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Town and School Election results:

Warrant Article #1 – Town and school offices

Office	Vote for not more than	... Year Term	Candidate (in Ballot Order)	Results/Winner*
Selectman	Two	Three	Christopher Nicolopoulos	1019*
			Colleen Hunter	1076*
Budget Committee Member	Two	Three	Dominic Lucente	972*
			John R. Heise	989*
Town Moderator	One	Two	Peter F. Imse	1231*
Trustee of Trust Funds	One	Three	Mary Beth Walz	1147*
Library Trustee	One	Two	Converse Peirce Hunter	1161*
Library Trustee	One	Three	Christine Carey	1188*
Library Trustee	One	Five	Benette Pizzimenti	1156*
Supervisor of the Checklist	One	Four	Betsey Patten	648*
			Judith Goodnow	441
Supervisor of the Checklist	One	Six	Beth Titus	1179*
School Board Member	Two	Three	Robert Louf	918*
			Ginger Frazer	765
			Kathy Garfield	826*

Warrant Article #2 – Zoning Amendments

- A. Are you in favor of the adoption of ZONING AMENDMENT A as proposed by the Planning Board vote of January 7, 2016, to revise Section 5.11, Table of Uses, to permit cottage industries in all Zone District by special exception, to permit the keeping of livestock in the Commercial (C) Zone District by special exception, and to permit an accessory dwelling unit as a use by right in all Zone Districts? The amendment has been on file at the Municipal Building since Tuesday, February 2, 2016

(Recommended by the Planning Board by a vote of 7-0)
YES: 1109 NO: 271

- B. Are you in favor of the adoption of ZONING AMENDMENT B as proposed by the Planning board vote of January 21, 2016 to amend the Official Zoning Map and change the Zone District designation from Rural (RU) to Limited Industrial (I-1) for Block 5, Lots 47, 48 and 49-A in their entirety to the northerly right-of-way line of Baker Road and the centerline of Interstate 93? The amendment has been on file at the Municipal Building since Tuesday, February 2, 2016.

(Recommended by the Planning Board by a vote of 7-0)

- C. Are you in favor of the adoption of ZONING AMENDMENT C as proposed by the Planning Board vote of January 21, 2016 to revise Section 5.11, Table of Uses, to permit motor vehicle repair, gasoline sales, car and truck wash, motor or rail freight terminals, bus or train stations, and marinas by special exception in the Limited Industrial (I-1) Zone District? The amendment had been on file at the Municipal Building since Tuesday, February 2, 2016.

(Recommended by the Planning board by a vote of 7-0)
 YES: 1127 NO: 256

School Amendments

- A. Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40.13 (known as SB2) to allow official voting on all issues before the Bow School District on the second Tuesday of March? (Petitioned Article) (Voting on this article to take place on March 8, 2016 under the same polling hours and polling locations as established by the Town of Bow. 3/5 Majority Required for Passage)

Not recommended by the School Board (5-0)
 YES: 661 NO: 790

The Town Meeting was reconvened on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bow High School auditorium by Town Moderator Peter Imse. Moderator Imse asked the veterans in the meeting to stand so the people could honor and recognize them for their service. The Moderator explained that the ceremonial part of Town Meeting would start at 6:30 p.m. with the voting part starting at 7:00 p.m.

Presentation of Colors and National Anthem

The colors were presented by the Bow Boy Scouts of Troup #75 and we were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Coleman Plummer, Aiden Hyslop, Jack Hyslop, Erin Saffien and Max Tanner. The National Anthem was sung by Ms. Eli Finkelson.

Introductions

Town Moderator Peter Imse introduced the head table. On his far left Finance director Robert Blanchette, town manager Dave Stack, Selectman Ben Kiniry, Eric Anderson, Colleen Hunter, Jack Crisp, Harry Judd and town counsel Paul Fitzgerald. On the right, Town clerk Ms. Mridula Naik, recording Secretary Ms. Wendy Gilman and administrative assistant Ms. Nicole Gage. Moderator also thanked Bob Jacques from the Bow High School Audio Visual Department for setting up the room and recording the meeting. Moderator Imse also introduced and thanked his deputized Assistant Moderators who would assist in the counting of votes if the vote was too close to call by use of the voter cards. He thanked the deputized Moderators who were: Jim Hatem, Chuck Reinhardt, Mike Griffin, Gerard Carrier, Tamar Roberts, Sandy Eldridge, Harry Hadaway and Karen Wadsworth.

Citizen of the Year and Recognitions

Mr. Warren Perry, Bow Men’s Club, presented the “Citizen of the Year” award. Mr. Perry quoted Margaret Mead, “The solution to adult problems tomorrow depends on large measure upon how our children grow up today.” This year’s recipient embodies that sentiment. She is a member of Parents of Performing Arts and has served as Treasurer of that organization. She has held many fundraisers, organized many trips and a key supporter of any child in the performing arts. She also played a large part in Destination Imagination experience of hundreds of students. She is the organizer of the after school program Bow Extracurricular Activities. Bow children benefit from her generosity. This year the Bow Community Citizen of the year is Ms. Paula Bourassa. Selectman Harry Judd recognized the Supervisors of the Checklist for their due diligence and hard work for the Town of Bow. Both Ms. Susan Stevens and Ms. Sara Swenson are retiring from their positions this year. Ms. Sara Swenson has served as Supervisor of the Checklist for 25 years and Ms. Susan Stevens for 12 years. Selectman Judd recognized the amount of work Supervisors of the Checklist do before, during and after the election. Selectman Judd presented each a plaque and thanked them for their service to the Town of Bow. Selectman Judd presented a plaque to out-going Selectman Jack Crisp. Selectman Judd remarked that Selectman Crisp had tried to retire from the Select Board once before but graciously stepped up to serve when asked. Selectman Crisp has served 10 years on the Select Board. He has given tirelessly of his time and is on four committees this year. During the last few months, he has attended meetings four evenings every week. Selectman Crisp has also given freely of his legal time in assisting the Town with some difficult settlement issues. Outgoing Selectman Crisp accepted the plaque to an extended round of applause. As advertised, Moderator Imse adjourned the meeting at 6:50 PM after the conclusion of the ceremonial agenda and reconvened it at 7:00 PM of the same evening.

Rules of Order

Moderator Imse reviewed the rules and procedures of the meeting as referenced in the 2015 Town of Bow Annual Report on pages I through VI. Moderator Imse then called for a motion to adopt the Rules. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the above

referenced Rules. **Majority vote in favor and the motion carried.** Moderator Imse further clarified that if this Meeting did not finish by 11:00 PM, he would adjourn and reconvene the meeting on March 16, 2016 at the Bow Elementary School.

Moderator Imse advised the voters that Warrant Article 3 for the Public Safety Building is a bond vote and is required to be voted upon by secret ballot. The Polls must stay open for one hour during which the meeting can continue and Moderator Imse will declare when the hour is over and allow the votes to be counted. As in the past one ballot box is located on stage and one at the back of the auditorium in the hall outside. Moderator Imse recognized Mr. Chuck Douglas at the microphone with a point of order. "Mr. Moderator, I move that Articles 6 and 20 be voted upon before the Meeting considers Article 3 concerning the Public Safety Building." Mr. Dominic Lucente seconded the motion. Mr. Douglas stated that Article 3 is a bond issue of approximately \$3.9 million. Mr. Douglas further clarified that the \$449,000 is the same money that is in Article 6 for the roundabout. The Budget Committee voted not to recommend the roundabout but the Selectmen voted to approve it. If Article 6 is approved, then Article 20 is moot. If the voters don't approve Article 6, they would proceed directly to Article 20 which would reduce the Public Safety Building bond to about \$3.5 million, reducing the amount of interest and making the cost of the Public Safety Building more palatable. There being no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. **Majority vote was in favor and the motion carried. Article 6 will be considered first.**

Article 6 - Roundabout

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$749,000 for the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Logging Hill Road, Knox Road, White Rock Hill Road and Bow Center Road; to authorize the receipt of federal and state grants in the amount of \$300,000 and the withdrawal of \$449,000 from the Highway Construction Capital Reserve Fund for this purpose. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI which will not lapse until the earlier of project completion or June 30, 2021.

(Recommended by Selectman 4-1)
(Not Recommended by Budget Committee 5-1)

Presentation and Discussion

The Moderator called for a motion and a second to adopt Article 6. Motion by Mr. Jeffrey Knight and seconded by Mr. Dominic Lucente. Majority vote was in favor and Article 6 is adopted. The Moderator further stated that since the Articles of 6 and 20 were related, he would take comments on both at the same time.

Selectman Judd spoke to Article 6. The Town has the opportunity to secure \$300,000 from the State of New Hampshire in State Aid but it will lapse in 2016 if the project doesn't go forward. The Select Board decided to let the citizens of Bow make the decision alone on whether to waive the opportunity for State funds or not. Selectman Judd went on to discuss the reasoning for a roundabout, noting that it is the safest solution. The State won't allow the Town to put a stop light at the intersection and won't approve a 4-way stop. The roundabout design wouldn't require any land to be taken and will be designed for large trucks to maneuver. Selectman Judd cited traffic studies showing over 2,000 vehicles going through the intersection in a two hour time span and noted that 14 collisions had occurred within the intersection.

Selectman Judd then spoke to Article 20. He showed the citizens a list of roads, bridges and highways needing repair and/or replacement. The paving budget is an area that often will have funding cuts in order to keep taxes down. With those cuts, the Town is now on a 28 year paving schedule. If the \$449,000 is removed from the Highway Construction Capital Reserve, the fund will be approximately a million dollars short to complete the tasks on the list. Funds would have to be raised through taxes.

Mr. Jeffrey Knight, 8 Peaslee Road, addressed the roundabout pointing out that he is going to address what the select board presented. He noted that there had been no deaths and only 14 collisions in 6 years at that intersection, the data received from the police chief. He further noted that the Budget Committee, who he is a member of, had not voted for Article 6 and that he is not convinced that the select board is in favor of it and that the true purpose of their presentation was to give the towns people a vote. Mr. Gary Nysten, 38 Robinson Road, citing his experience directing traffic in Concord, indicated the Police Department should direct the traffic at the intersection during critical times instead of putting in a roundabout. Mr. Al Gagne, 5 Merrill Crossing (former police officer), stated his objections to adding a roundabout. Don Berube, 135 River Road, stated he was not in favor of the roundabout and the money should be left in the highway fund to fix the roads. Mr. Berube surmised that the amount saved if the bond was reduced by \$449,000 wouldn't be all that much in a bond of that size. Mr. Stephen Coleman, 9 Logging Hill Road, stated he didn't see the need for a roundabout and the money should be put someplace where it was needed. Mr. Bill Rogers, Jonathan Lane, indicated it was fundamentally wrong to rob one fund with one purpose to use it elsewhere for a different purpose. Mr. Rogers stated that if the roundabout got voted out the funds should stay in the highway fund for that purpose. Mr. John Urdi, 51 Putney Road, agreed with Mr. Rogers that the \$449,000 should stay in the highway fund and not be repurposed for the Public Safety Building, noting there were a number of highway projects that could benefit from the funds. Mr. Urdi asked how much would an owner of a \$300,000 house save in taxes by reducing the bond by \$449,999. Selectman Colleen Hunter responded it would save a total of \$182.00 over 20 years on a house worth \$300,000. Mr. Douglas stated if Article 6 were to be approved the \$449,000 would already be taken out of the highway

fund and not used for road/bridge repairs. Article 20 sought only to use it to reduce the bond on the Public Safety Building instead of the roundabout. Mr. Douglas urged a “no” vote on Article 6

Town Counsel Paul Fitzgerald gave comments on Article 20. In a prologue to his comments, Town Counsel Fitzgerald stated that as a general rule he does not review and/or comment on warrant articles unless asked to by town officials and further, he has no input into whether an Article passes or not. Lastly, Town Council Fitzgerald’s view is only one view that could be opinioned on Article 20 and others could take other views. That being said, Town Counsel Fitzgerald stated that Article 20 was missing an actual appropriation clause which, if challenged, may not achieve what the petitioners want it to do. As stated, Article 20 repurposes the money that is there and talks about transferring money from one use to another but does not state it will be taken out and utilized either this year or any other year for the specific purpose that is thought of at this time.

Ms.Nancy Rheinhardt, 30 Stack Drive, urged the petitioner’s to remove this Article, in light of Town Counsel Fitzgerald’s remarks.

Mr. Chuck Douglas moved the question on Article 6. Moderator stated that a motion to move the question takes a 2/3’s majority vote but not a secret ballot. Moderator Imse called for the voters to take the vote to adopt article 6 to hold up their voter cards. **The majority vote is no and Article 6 failed.**

Article 20 – By Petition - \$449,000 Highway Construction Capital Reserve

(By petition) To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Highway Construction Capital Reserve Fund to the Public Safety Building Capital Reserve Fund to reduce the amount of bonding for the proposed Public Safety Building. This will remove the current balance of \$449,000 sought for the roundabout at Knox Road and repurpose it to the Public Safety Building. (2/3 vote required)

The Moderator called for a motion and a second to adopt Article 20. Motion by Mr. Jeffrey Knight and seconded by Mr. Bob Arnold. The vote was in favor and Article 20 is adopted. Moderator Imse recognized Petitioner Chuck Douglas. Mr. Douglas commented on Town Counsel Fitzgerald’s view of Article 20.

Motion

Mr. Douglas moved to amend Article 20 by adding to the end of the last sentence and before “(2/3 vote required)” the following wording “...and appropriate it for that purpose.” The last sentence would be amended to read, “**This will remove the current balance of \$449,000 sought for the roundabout at Knox Road; repurpose it to the Public Safety Building and appropriate it for that purpose.**” Motion by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Jeffrey Knight.

Mr. Douglas explained that what this does is repurposing. Since the roundabout is killed the people now have 2 choices. Either leave the \$449,000 in the highway fund or reduce the bond issue by that amount. Moderator announced that, there is a motion to amend Article 20 and a second by Mr. Jeffery Knight and the new language is on the board so everyone is clear what they are voting on.

Speaking to the amendment, Mr. Jeff Knight told the voters that reducing the bond by \$449,000 results in a 12 ½% savings on a \$300,000 home over 20 years. Selectman Benjamin Kiniry stated that the total amount in the Highway and I-2 Zone funds were approximately \$1.5 million which was the amount needed to repair 2 bridges and if the taxpayers voted to take out the \$449,000 there wouldn’t be enough funds to repair both bridges. Mr. Tony Ferraro, 19 Evangelyn Drive, questioned why the Select Board recommended withdrawal of funds from the highway fund if they knew it would shortchange the highway fund’s ability to repair roads. Responding, Selectman Judd stated the Select Board didn’t feel it was their place to make a decision to turn down State funds and wanted the voters to decide. Selectman Judd further stated the Article was worded in such a fashion so as not to delay the project, if passed, or have to raise the funds by taxes. Since the roundabout has been voted down, the money will stay in the highway fund and be used for the purposes stated. Mr. Ferraro was in support of leaving the funds for road repairs. Chris Bartlett, 3 Hampshire Hills Drive, asked if grant funds were being pursued for bridge repairs/replacements. Selectman Judd responded they were seeking to apply for any monies the town was eligible for.

There being no further discussion on the Amendment, Moderator Imse called for a vote on the amendment. Calling it too close to call doing a visual count, Moderator Imse asked for the voter cards to be counted. A voter commented that there is confusion on what they are voting on. So he needed clarification and start over on the voting. Moderator restated that they are voting on the amendment to see whether or not to add the red text to article 20. If it passes then they will vote on the amended article with the new added language. If it fails then they will vote on Article 20 as it was originally presented on the warrant. Majority vote was in favor. **The Amendment to Article 20 passed.**

The Moderator called for any further comment on Article 20 as amended. There being none, Moderator Imse called for a vote. The majority vote was not in favor and **Article 20 as amended failed.**

Article 3 – Public Safety Building

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,308,858(gross budget)for the construction and equipping of a public safety building, for expenses relating to relocation of the Fire Department , Emergency Management and Police Department to this

facility, and for expenses relating to the issuance of municipal bonds or notes, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$3,992,958 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act(RSA 33); to authorize the Board of selectman to apply for, obtain and accept, federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the board of selectman to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the other terms thereof; and to authorize the Board of Selectman to take any other action or pass any other vote relative thereto; furthermore, to authorize the withdrawal of the sum of \$5900 from the Public safety Building Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose; with the \$10,000 to come from donations; and to authorize the withdrawal of \$300,000 from the unreserved fund balance of the General fund, which unreserved General Fund balance shall be expended during the current fiscal year for construction costs in advance of the receipt of bond proceeds. (2/3 ballot vote required)

(Recommended by Selectman 4-1)
(Recommended by Budget Committee 5-1)

Moderator Imse recognized Selectman Judd with an Amendment to Article 3. Selectman Judd stated that upon advice of Bond Counsel it was suggested to add the following sentence to the end of Article 3. "Interim financing shall come from unreserved funds from the current fiscal year fund balance, which shall be reimbursed from bond proceeds upon receipt." Using unreserved funds from the fund balance, allows construction to begin immediately, if Article 3 passes, without waiting for the Bond Bank to issue monies in July. Construction can be completed prior to winter thus saving winter construction costs and money for the Town.

Article 3- Public Safety Building-As Amended

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,308,858 (gross budget) for the construction and equipping of a public safety building, for expenses relating to relocation of the Fire Department, Emergency Management and Police Department to this facility, and for expenses relating to the issuance of municipal bonds or notes, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$3,992,958 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the other terms thereof; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any other action or pass any other vote relative thereto; furthermore, to authorize the withdrawal of the sum of \$5,900 from the Public Safety Building Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose; with the \$10,000 to come from donations; and to authorize the withdrawal of \$300,000 from the unreserved fund balance of the General Fund, which unreserved General Fund balance shall be expended during the current fiscal year for construction costs in advance of the receipt of bond proceeds. **Interim financing shall come from unreserved funds from the current fiscal year fund balance, which shall be reimbursed from bond proceeds upon receipt.** (2/3 ballot vote required)

There being no further discussion on the amendment to Article 3, Moderator Imse called for a motion and second to adopt Article 3 as amended. A motion by Mr. Jeffrey Knight and seconded by Mr. Bob Arnold. The majority vote was in favor of the amendment and **Article 3 as amended was adopted.**

Presentation and Discussion

Selectman Colleen Hunter spoke on Article 3, as amended. Last year the town voted to approve \$35,000 to develop detailed design-build specifications and Request for Proposal (RFP) documents for a combined facility ranging in size from 20,000 to 25,000 SF at a cost not to exceed \$5,000,000. The current Public Safety Committee met from June through November developing a request for proposals, evaluating responses and doing outreach to various Bow community organizations. Selectman Hunter thanked the current members of the Committee, Police Chief Commerford, Fire Chief Abbott, Fire Captain Mitchel Harrington, Emergency Management Director Lee Kimball, and Town Manager David Stack, who gave their time, effort and expertise for the community. Selectman Hunter introduced Committee members Glenn Dugas, Bob Pike and Jeff Knight who will speak to the warrant article and answer questions.

Mr. Jeffrey Knight discussed the building itself and referenced a two-page colored hand-out on the Bow Public Safety Building (PSB). The project budget and a rendering are on one side. The proposed warrant article, rendering of the building on the lot, and property tax impact of the building based on a 20 year bond with estimated interest rate of 3.15% are on the back side. Construction costs are \$3,908,858 and costs for work to be performed by the town are \$400,000 for a total project cost of \$4,308,858. Subtract from that amount \$300,000 from the unassigned fund balance; less donations of \$10,000; and less a capital reserve fund set up for the PSB of \$5,900, leaves an amount to be bonded of \$3,992,958. Mr. Knight described the building as one level with a 100 ft. buffer from the property lines; economically built; heating and air conditioning systems to be used are between 93% and 100% efficient; specifically designed with input from Fire, Police and Emergency Management departments to meet their needs. Mr. Knight went on to point out the 100 ft. buffer line, parking area and main entrance on the plot plan and referenced the tax impact chart.

Mr. Glenn Dugas spoke about the Committee's work and effort in developing a package and project to serve the needs of the Town of Bow both now and in the future. Mr. Dugas spoke of meetings with various department heads; review of all existing documents and drawings of the various iterations of the Public Safety Building; developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) with specifications for the design-builder to use in his design, incorporating all the information from previous years in the RFP to ensure the bidders had access to all the information; bringing in a Consultant to review the RFP for errors or omissions before it was presented; and reviewing the proposals received in response to the RFP. The Committee met with and worked with the abutters to address their concerns and considered how the sliding hill would be affected. Members of the Committee met with the Planning Board to get their input and to address any of their concerns. Mr. Bob Pike's expertise was in the site/land itself and his input was valuable for, among other things, site evaluation; determining buffer/setback lines to address abutter concerns; protecting the sliding hill, leading site walks, as well as supervising the digging of test pits on the site. Mr. Pike stated the Committee had done all their work with the abutters in mind.

Mr. Bill Gerrard, 5 Turee View Drive (an abutter) was concerned about washing fire trucks and police cars and what effect it would have on his well. Selectman Judd responded the well will be used for the building's interior potable water. The sprinkler system will be filled with water from off site and the fire trucks will be filled, as usual, from either the town pond or from fire hydrants. Mr. Gerrard was interested in where the retention pond was going to be located and wanted to see a scale drawing rather than a rendering. Mr. Dugas had scaled drawings with him which he shared and noted that currently the retention pond would be located on the North end. Mr. Dugas further stated there was a 25,000 gallon cistern in the ground which will supply water for fire suppression and the sprinkler system. Mr. Gerrard also had a question on where the 100 foot buffer was measured from and if it would be filled with gravel. Mr. Pike responded the 100 foot buffer was measured from each abutter's property line. The buffer will leave existing vegetation in place with the exception of taking out mature and hazardous trees which will open the property up for new growth to occur.

The Moderator recognized Ms. Madeleine Kropp, 21 Jonathan Lane, to speak on Article 3 although she is under the voting age. Ms. Kropp expressed her concerns about the impact the Public Safety Building would have on her neighborhood. Mr. Don Berube, 135 River Road spoke in favor of approving Article 3 as amended. Mr. Berube felt the town had bent over backwards for the abutters even giving up the use of 50 feet by increasing the buffer to 100 feet. He suggested if a taxpayer didn't want something in their back yard then they should buy the property to prevent it. Mr. Berube urged the taxpayers to approve the Article. Mr. John Hare, Stone Sled Lane, spoke in favor of the Article as amended and asked which sections of the building would be used by which department. In response, Mr. Dugas indicated that the first section was Police, middle section is combined area of reception, dispatch and sally port in the back, middle small section is Fire and last section is apparatus. Dennis Mosbeck, 77 River Road, complimented the Public Safety Building Committee on a great job. Mr. Mosbeck asked if this bond would, in essence, just replace the high school bond and not have an effect on his taxes. Selectman Crisp responded that all things being equal the payment on the Public Safety Building bond is less than the payment on the School bond. Mr. Judd noted that the last payment on the school bond is August, 2016.

Mr. Ferraro, 19 Evangelyn Drive was concerned what the town would do if the building went over budget. Mr. Jeffrey Knight responded that the town has built in a certain amount of money for contingencies as had the design-builder. There will be no change orders or surprises. He also mentioned the town had already done test borings and determined there was no ledge on the site. Mr. Ferraro was also concerned about what would happen to taxes if Bow lost its court case with Eversource. In response, Selectman Crisp stated there was no way to determine how the court case would turn out. The Town has been aware of this issue for a number of years and if the Eversource wins to the extent they want to win, there will be a tax impact. Selectman Crisp also noted the Town has been aware of the situation for some time and have already dropped the assessment of that property drastically. Selectman Crisp also noted that some of Eversource's assets in town were growing in value, mentioning the distribution center. The Exel warehouse has offset some of the tax impact and the Business Development Committee has been working to attract new businesses to replace Eversource. Ms. Jean Rich, 11 Nesbitt Drive, spoke in favor of Article 3 and thanked the Committee for their hard work. She addressed a comment made earlier that if the bond were reduced \$449,000 a lot more people would support it. Addressing those people, Ms. Rich stated the \$182.00 dollar difference it would make over 20 years was small. Ms. Rich urged the people to come together and approve Article 3, as amended. Ms. Lisa Cohen, 104 Brown Hill Road, stated she had been against the Public Safety Building for years. She gave her appreciation for all the hard work the Committee has put in and appreciated that they had gotten the cost down. Ms. Cohen stated that because the town was of a certain size, she didn't think it needed a combined public safety building and felt the Fire Department should be updated. Ms. Cohen recommended a "no" vote on Article 3, as amended. Ms. Cohen then called the question. The Moderator called for a second to the motion to call the question. A second was received. Motion to call shuts off debate. Moderator asked people to vote to restrict debate by raising their voter cards. The majority vote was in favor of calling the question so debate would be closed except for those already in line at the microphone.

Mr. David Gazaway, 3 Pheasant Drive, questioned whether the siting of the building and 100 foot setback limited the town from using the property for other buildings to address town services. Selectman Judd responded the building will use 5 acres of a 17 acre parcel. The Town has no other plans for the land but its use is not being restricted for future buildings by the siting of the Public Safety Building. Selectman Judd also mentioned that the snowmobile trail had been relocated so as not to lose that recreational activity. Mr. Joseph Romano, 1 Colonial Terrace, stated he was in favor of Article 3, as amended, and also wanted to look at a site plan of the property.

Moderator Imse stated that because Article 3, as amended, was a bond article, the vote will be by secret ballot and voting must be left open for an hour. In that hour, other business could be taken up but the polls would remain open during that time. Moderator Imse directed the voters on the voting procedures. The Moderator declared the ballot box open at 8:47 PM and that it will remain open until 9:47 PM. He asked the voters to get voter card stamped and to use the first purple ballot. Since it appeared that most of the votes had been cast, Moderator Imse called the meeting into order approximately half way through the hour, however the ballot box was still open.

Article 4 – Municipal Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee’s recommended sum of \$9,794,226 for general municipal operations. The Selectmen recommend \$9,794,226. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectman 5-0)

Motion by Mr. Jeffrey Knight and seconded by Mr. Dominic Lucente as it appears.

The Moderator recognized Mr. John Heise, Chairman of the Budget Committee, with an amendment. Chair Heise moved to amend the Budget Committee’s recommended sum from \$9,794,226 to \$9,773,576 because the fuel reduction amount of \$20,650 was not included in the first sum stated in the Article. The Moderator called for and received a second on the motion on the amendment. There being no discussion on the amendment, Moderator Imse called for a vote. **Motion to amend passes by majority vote.**

Article 4 is amended.

Presentation and Discussion

Selectman Crisp spoke to Article 4, as amended. Selectman Crisp expressed his thanks and appreciation to all those present for the opportunity to serve the Town on the Board of Selectman for the last 10 years and received a round of applause from all. Selectmen Crisp gave a brief overview of the budget process. He stated there was a significant decrease in health insurance costs. Realizing the Town would be facing a “Cadillac Tax” if the current health insurance plan continued and wanting to protect the Town employees, the Select Board has come up with a high deductible (\$1,000/\$3,000) health insurance plan through Health Trust with a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) to minimize any impact on employees. The HRA will be funded by the Town initially at 100% and then by 90%. Employees will see some added medical out-of-pocket health costs and will receive a one and one-half percent (1 ½ %) increase in salary to help offset the additional costs. In the first year, the Town will see approximately \$290,000 in health savings as a result of the changes. Selectman Crisp went on to discuss Dispatch changes. Merrimack County Sherriff’s Department received a million dollars from the County Commissioners to upgrade their equipment and as a result, the Sherriff’s Department can now accommodate the Town of Bow’s Dispatch. The Town is in the process of switching over their Dispatch and will realize a \$288,000 savings in the first year in doing so. Further, Selectman Crisp stated that reorganization of the Fire Department, including going from a part-time to a full-time Fire Chief, will save approximately \$40,000. Fuel costs have also gone down since first drafting the budget resulting in more savings. All these items resulted in overall reduction of \$550,000 in the budget. Selectman Crisp stated the Select Board continues to make efforts to bring the tax rate down. In 2013 the Town portion of the tax rate was \$7.05; in 2014 it was \$7.04; in 2015 it was \$6.71 and this year it is down to \$6.51. Selectman Crisp indicated that although he would not be on the Board, the Selectmen would continue to make efforts to keep town costs down. Sensing no more discussion on Article 4 as amended, the Moderator called for a vote. The majority vote was in favor. **Article 4 as amended passed.**

Article 5 – Community Building Study

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$42,000 for the purpose of conducting a boundary survey, performing geotechnical testing and analysis, developing conceptual building design and site plan options and cost estimates for the renovation of the Bow Community Building so that Taxpayers can make informed decisions on the existing Community Building.

(Recommended by Selectman 5-0)
(Recommended by Budget Committee 6-0)

This article was moved by Mr. Jeffrey Knight and seconded by Mr. Dominic Lucente. Moderator Imse called for a motion and second to adopt Article 5. A motion and second was received. Majority vote on the motion to adopt was in favor. Article 5 is adopted.

Presentation and Discussion

Selectman Crisp spoke to Article 5. Selectman Crisp has headed up the Community Building Committee for the last 2 years. The Committee developed a list of all the uses of the building and all the activities that go on in the building. An ADA evaluation has also been done on the building. The Committee put out an RFP for a consultant to evaluate the building and ultimately selected Sheerr, McCrystal and Palson. They did an assessment of the building to see what could be done with it, based on the Fire Department

leaving. There is 14,376 square feet of space available if the Fire Department leaves. The site has a traffic flow problem because people will go through the parking lot to avoid traffic at the intersection. The Committee wants to look at relocating parking and putting in green space between the building and the Town Pond. Selectman Crisp stated that the structure of the Community Building appears to be very sound but the plumbing, heating and electrical will have to be replaced. The Committee feels with the funds requested in Article 5 they will be able to bring a proposal to the voters next year.

The Moderator called for discussion on Article 5. Ms. Marge Welch, 44 Bow Center Road, was glad the Committee was looking at keeping the Community Center building and felt the activities held there were important to the Town. Mr. Ladd, 47 Logging Hill Road, asked whether the Public Safety Building Article should be voted on first in case the Fire Department didn't move out.

Moderator Imse called for any further discussion. Sensing none, he called for a vote on Article 5. Majority vote was in favor.

Article 5 passes.

Moderator Imse stated there were 10 minutes left to vote on Article 3, as amended.

Article 7 – Payments to Capital Reserve Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$410,000 and authorize payment into existing capital reserve funds in the following amounts for the purpose for which such funds were established.

Municipal Buildings and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund	\$135,000
Public Works Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$120,000
Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund	\$45,000
Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$42,000
Police Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$35,000
Recreation Improvements Capital Reserve Fund	\$20,000
Recreation Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$8,000
Municipal Facilities Emergency Repair Capital Reserve Fund	\$5,000

(Recommended by Selectman 4-1)
(Recommended by Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion by Mr. Jeffrey Knight and seconded by Mr. Bob Arnold. Article 7 is adopted.

Presentation and Discussion

Selectman Colleen Hunter spoke to Article 7. Selectman Hunter reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) process. The Town's CIP Committee begins meeting in July of each year. The Committee reviews the current Plan and any new projects and equipment replacements that are presented by the Town Manager. This process serves as the first step in the preparation of the annual Town budget. A CIP aims to recognize and resolve deficiencies in existing public facilities and infrastructure and anticipate future demand for the replacement or rehabilitation of existing capital facilities. The CIP process is also used to manage the purchase and replacement of Town vehicles and equipment. The ultimate goal of the CIP is to spread out and manage the costs in order to prevent spiking up and down of the property tax rate over a six year period. The Plan contains a six year schedule of capital expenditures; however, the Committee also looks head beyond the six years.

The Moderator called for discussion on Article 8. Sensing none, Moderator Imse called for a vote on the Article. **Majority vote was in favor. Article 7 passed.**

Article 8 – Fire Tanker Truck Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$355,000 for the purchase of a 3,000 gallon tanker truck for the Fire Department and to authorize the withdrawal of up to \$355,000 from the Fire Truck Capital Reserve fund for this purpose. The 1997 tanker truck scheduled in the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for replacement in FY2018-2019 will not be replaced and will be removed from the CIP. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectman 5-0)
(Recommended by Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion by Mr. Jeffrey Knight and seconded by Mr. Bob Arnold. Article 8 is adopted.

Presentation and Discussion

Selectman Ben Kiniry spoke to Article 8. The Fire Department has a 1993 tanker truck that holds 1,800 gallons. Its replacement was pushed back a few years and now it needs \$25,000 to \$30,000 of repairs. The Fire Department requested a 3,000 gallon tanker to replace it. While the Select Board initially wasn't inclined to fund a 3,000 tanker, the Department came back with a compromise to replace both the 1993 truck and the 1997 truck, which was due to be replaced in 2018, with the one 3,000 gallon truck. The Select Board agreed to recommend it.

The Moderator called for discussion on Article 8. Sensing none, Moderator Imse called for a vote. The majority vote was in favor and **Article 8 passed.**

Article 9 – Annual Road Paving

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$335,000 for the paving of Robinson Road (Knox to 3A), Rocky Point Drive and the paving of other Town roads. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2018, whichever is sooner. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectman 5-0)
(Recommended by Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion by Mr. Jeffrey Knight and seconded by Mr. Bob Arnold. Article 9 is adopted.

Presentation and Discussion:

Selectman Eric Anderson spoke to Article 9. The Town of Bow Public Works Department maintains 156 town-owned and town maintained roads covering almost 95 miles. At the present rate of paving it will take 31 years to pave all the town's roads. Selectman Anderson reviewed the roads scheduled to be paved in the upcoming year which represents 3.25 miles of road costing \$105,000 per mile. The tax impact is approximately \$0.31 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value or \$77.50 annually for a home costing \$250,000.

Noting the time was 9:47 PM, Moderator Imse declared the voting on Warrant Article 3, as amended closed and the counting of the ballots could begin.

Moderator Imse called for a vote on Article 9. **Majority vote was in favor and Article 9 passed.**

Article 10 – DPW Excavator Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$110,000 to purchase an excavator and other accessories for the Public Works Department and to authorize the withdrawal of up to \$110,000 from the Public Works Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectman 5-0)
(Recommended by Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion by Mr. Jeffrey Knight and seconded by Mr. Dominic Lucente. Article 10 is adopted.

Presentation and Discussion

Selectman Hunter spoke to Article 10. Article 10 is for the purchase of an excavator for the Public Works Department for the purpose of improving the productivity of road reconstruction, including drainage improvements and maintenance projects throughout the town. The excavator purchase has been in the CIP for 5 years and will not have an impact on the tax rate.

The Moderator called for comments on the Article. Mr. Berube asked if the Town had equipment to move the excavator and was told it did. Sensing no more public comment, Moderator Imse called for a vote on the Article. Majority vote was in favor. **Article 10 passed.**

Article 11 – I-2 Zone Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Road Construction-I-2 Zone and Business Development Capital Reserve Fund to the Bridge and Highway Construction Capital Reserve Fund (2/3 Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectman 4-1)

Moderator Imse called for a motion and second to adopt Article 11. Motion by Mr. Jeffrey Knight and seconded by Mr. Bob Arnold. Article 11 is adopted.

Presentation and Discussion:

Selectman Judd spoke to Article 11. The I-2 Zone is the area between Route 3A and the river. The fund was established a few years ago to do road improvements in the area. There was an expectation there would be another exit at Robinson Road but it never materialized. The repurposing of the I-2 Zone funds will allow the town to use the funds to do bridge and highway repairs in areas other than the I-2 Zone, starting with the two red-listed bridges in town. There will be no appropriation from this fund this year and no tax impact. There was a question about the amount of money in the fund. Approximately \$1.2 million is in the fund, with \$400,000 already committed, leaving about \$800,000 available to commit.

Moderator Imse called for comments, sensing none, he called for a vote on the Article. **Passes by majority vote. Article 11 passed.**

Article 12 – Birchdale Bridge Repair

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the temporary repair of the Birchdale Road Bridge and the withdrawal of up to \$100,000 from the Bridge and Highway Construction Capital Reserve Fund for this purpose. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI which will not lapse until the earlier of project completion or June 30, 2021.

(Recommended by Selectman 5-0)
(Recommended by Budget Committee 6-0)

Moderator Imse called for a motion and second to adopt Article 12. Motion by Mr. Bob Arnold and seconded by Mr. Jeffrey Knight. Article 12 is adopted.

Presentation and Discussion

Selectman Kiniry spoke to Article 12. The Birchdale Road Bridge is closed and the bridge on Page Road has been “red” listed. There is a possibility the State of New Hampshire (“State”) could reimburse the Town for 80% of the cost to fix the two bridges but that isn’t until 2025. It might behoove the Town to temporarily repair the Birchdale Road Bridge in anticipation of receiving reimbursement of 80% of the costs from the State in the future. The cost to replace the Birchdale Road Bridge is approximately \$600,000 and the cost of the Page Road Bridge is estimated at \$800,000. The temporary repair to Birchdale will be concrete which will last 10 years.

Another option is purchase a Bailey bridge to put over the existing bridge.

Moderator Imse called for comments. Sensing none the Moderator called for a vote. Majority vote was in favor. **Article 12 passed.**

Announcement of the results of ballot voting on Article 3, as amended.

Moderator verified the totals and announced there were **428 YES** votes and **108 NO** votes. Total votes 536. It needed 357 to pass. A two-thirds majority was achieved. **Article 3, as amended passed** with a round of applause from the voters.

Selectman Judd asked all the members of the 8 Public Safety Building Committees and Town employees who work with them to stand and be recognized. The members rose to a round of applause. Moderator Imse expressed his appreciation to Sara Swenson and Susan Stevens for help with the ballot counting all these years and their wealth of knowledge and the commitment they made to the community.

Motion:

Ms. Julie Johnson, 26 Woodhill road moved to restrict reconsideration on any of the Articles voted upon thus far this evening. Moderator Imse explained that this means if this meeting votes to reconsider any article at the end of the meeting there would be a one week delay and it will be reconsidered on the 16th. It will not avoid reconsideration but there will be a 7 day wait. Moderator Imse called for a second to the motion. A second was received. Moderator calls for a vote. The majority vote on the motion was in favor.

Motion passes.

Article 13 – Generator Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$85,000 for the purchase of an emergency generator for the Public Safety Building and to authorize the withdrawal of \$42,500 from the Municipal Buildings and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund with the balance of \$42,500 to come from a State grant. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectman 5-0)
(Recommended by Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion by Mr. Bob Arnold and seconded by Mr. John Heise. Motion and second were received. Article 13 is adopted.

Presentation and Discussion

Selectman Judd spoke to Article 13. The Town had anticipated the need for a new generator for the Fire Department so set up a capital reserve fund to purchase it. There will be no tax impact because the funds are available in the reserve fund. Emergency Manager Lee Kimball is also seeking grant funds for the purchase.

Mr. Mark Vincent, 104 Brown Hill Road, wanted clarification that the funds to purchase the generator were not going to be taken out of contingency funds set aside for the Public Safety Building. Selectman Judd confirmed the funding for the generator would be from capital reserves and other funds raised such as grants, and not from contingency set aside for Public Safety Building.

Mr. Justin Audley, 50 River Drive, asked what would happen if the Town couldn’t get a grant. Selectman Crisp responded all the funds would come out of the reserve fund. If there is a grant awarded, the Town would leave the \$42,500 in the reserve fund. Moderator Imse asked for any more comments. Sensing none, he called for a vote on the Article. **Majority vote was in favor.**

Article 13 passed.

Article 14 – Library Lower Level

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Library Lower Level Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Library Trustees)
(Recommended by Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion by Mr. John Heise and seconded by Mr. Jeffrey Knight. Article 14 is adopted.

Presentation and Discussion

Selectman Anderson spoke to Article 14. The Library Lower Level Capital Reserve Fund was established at the 2012 Town Meeting. This Article represents the last installment of the Town's promised \$300,000 contribution to that fund. The Article represents a tax impact equal to \$0.05 cents per thousand in assessed value. Ann Hoey, Library Trustee, presented an update on the project and thanked the Town for its contributions thus far. The lower level library renovation was estimated to cost \$600,000. At the beginning of the project, the Trustees asked the Town to fund half the cost, with the Trustees and supportive groups pledging to raise the other half by fund raising. When complete, the lower level project will provide additional meeting spaces, a climate controlled room to hold historic documents and an auditorium to hold community events. To date the Town has appropriated \$250,000. The Trustees are requesting the final \$50,000 in Article 14.

Moderator Imse called for public comment. Sensing none, he called for a vote on the Article. **Majority vote on the Article was in favor. Article 14 passed.**

Article 15 – DPW Tractor

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$41,207 for the purchase of a tractor and accessories for the Public Works Department and to authorize the withdrawal of up to \$41,207 from the Recreation Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for this purpose. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectman 5-0)
(Recommended by Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion by Mr. Jeffrey Knight and seconded by Mr. Dominic Lucente. Article 15 is adopted.

Presentation and Discussion

Selectman Anderson spoke to Article 15. This Article is for the replacement of a 1999 John Deere 4600 Tractor that has 3,000 working hours on it. The current tractor was originally slated for replacement in 2012 and its reliability is now in question. It is the Department's recommendation that now is the best time for replacement as there is currently considerable trade value for the tractor. There is not tax impact because it is funded from a capital reserve fund. Mr. John Caron, 24 Putney road, asked who would be using the tractor. In response Selectman Anderson said it would be Public Works Department employees who do outdoor work for the Parks and Recreation Department.

There being no further comments, Moderator Imse called for a vote. Majority vote was in favor. **Article 15 passed.**

Article 16 – Fire Radio Equipment Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to raise an appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for the purchase of radio equipment for the Fire Department and to authorize the withdrawal of up to \$40,000 from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for this purpose. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectman 5-0)
(Recommended by Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion by Mr. John Heise and seconded by Mr. Bob Arnold. Article 16 is adopted.

Presentation and Discussion

Selectman Kiniry spoke to Article 16. The Article is to purchase 20 portable radios for the Fire Department to replace the current radios which were purchased in 2003 with grant funds. Limited parts are available for the current radios making repairs difficult and expensive. There is no tax impact as the radios are funded from a capital reserve fund.

The Moderator called for comments. Sensing none, Moderator Imse called for a vote on the Article. **Majority vote was in favor and Article 16 passed.**

Article 17 – Police Vehicle Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the purchase of a police vehicle and to authorize the withdrawal of up to \$25,000 from the Police Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for this purpose. The vehicle being replaced will be transferred to the Parks and Recreation Department. (Majority Vote Required)

(Recommended by Selectman 4-1)
(Recommended by Budget Committee 6-0)

Motion by Mr. John Heise and seconded by Mr. Bob Arnold. Article 17 is adopted.

Presentation and Discussion

Selectman Crisp spoke to Article 17. The vehicle to be replaced is a 2006 Ford Taurus used by the full time detective for investigative work as well as undercover assignments. As of March 4, 2016, the vehicle had 55,650 miles on it. The vehicle was purchased with a grant and doesn't have the standard "police package". The 2006 Taurus will be transferred to Parks and Recreation to replace an older vehicle. There is no tax impact as the funds are coming from a capital reserve fund.

There being no comments from the public, Moderator Imse called for a vote. Majority vote was in favor

Article 17 passed.

Article 18 – Discontinue Class VI portion of River Road

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue absolutely the Class VI portion of River Road, from the intersection of the former Johnson Road south to the Bow/Hooksett town line.

(Recommended by Selectman 5-0)

Motion by Mr. Jeffrey Knight and seconded by Mr. Robert Louf. Article 18 is adopted.

Presentation and Discussion.

Selectman Anderson spoke to Article 18. River Road, a scenic byway, was a one lane, dirt road that used to run along the river to Hooksett. In the early 1900s the river began to erode the road, trees toppled over and their roots began destroying parts of River Road, making it no longer safe to travel by vehicle. The Board of Selectman at the time chose to close the road to vehicle traffic, 1,900 feet of the road from the intersection of the former Johnson Road south to the Bow/Hooksett town line. For the past 25 years, the road has been closed and not maintained by the Town. The Town is now requesting approval to abandon this section of River Road. The abutters would then own to the middle of the road. There is no cost to the tax payers.

The Moderator recognized Mr. Chris Evans, Ferry Road. Mr. Evans asked if there was survey of the property, questioning whether the fallen trees were even on Town owned property. Mr. Evans went on to detail the recreational uses of the property such as biking, walking, fishing and sighting of bald eagles. Mr. Evans mentioned that construction companies were parking equipment along the river bank using town land for their own benefit. In his opinion, Mr. Evans stated the highest and best use of this property would be for the tax payers and mentioned adding an access to the river for canoes or a park. He urged voters to vote no on the Article citing the lack of a survey or appraisal on the property so the voters would know what they are giving up in abandoning it. Mr. David Gazaway, 3 Pheasant View Drive, spoke against approval of Article 18 and asked how abandoning the road would benefit the town. Selectman Anderson recalled the discussion was around the liability connected with the property. Mr. Gazaway didn't think the voters had enough information to make the decision to abandon the property. Concerned that abutters may close access to the property for recreational use, Ms. Nancy Reinhart encouraged the Board of Selectman to negotiate with R.H. White to relocate or for the Town to purchase their property. Mr. Todd Fahey, 20 Pepin Drive, stated that as the Town continues to develop, the river front could be valuable and the Town should consider carefully what is given away. Mr. Fahey urged a no vote on the Article.

There being no further discussion on the Article, Moderator Imse called for a vote. Majority vote on Article 18 were **NOT** in favor.

Article 18 failed.

Article 19 – By Petition, Solar Exemption

(By Petition) Change the current solar exemption from the 1970's to: Exemption = 100% of cost of equipment and installation of the system.

Motion by Mr. Jeffrey Knight and seconded by Mr. Bob Arnold. Article 19 is adopted.

Presentation and Discussion:

Mr. Doug Patch, 20 Buckingham Drive, spoke in place of Mr. Mike Audley. This Article would raise the exemption for solar energy systems to 100% of the cost of equipment and installation. Bow adopted a 50% exemption for solar energy systems, with a \$10,000 cap in 1979. Approximately 99 communities in the state have an exemption for solar and approximately 50 of them have a 100% exemption. The tax impact of the current solar exemptions is about \$29,000. A solar energy system does not necessarily add to the value of the house. This Article is saying the cost should not be counted toward the assessed value. The Moderator recognized Mr. Bob Eldredge, 13 Meadow Lane. Mr. Eldredge stated he was in full support of the Article and hoped at some point the Town would look at solar to generate electricity for town buildings and schools. Mr. Justin Audley, 50 River Road, spoke in favor of the Article.

There was some concern about lifting the cap on the exemption. Ms. Barbara Lawler, 48 Wood Hill Road, stated she has wanted to put solar on her house but didn't because of the cap. She urged the voters to approve the Article. Selectman Judd cautioned the voters to know the Statutes and understand what qualifies for the exemption before investing a lot of money into a solar system. Mr. Chris Harmon, 12 Knox Road, also spoke in favor of the Article as did several other voters. Ms. Betsey Leonard, 29 Knox Road, told the taxpayers that she has solar panels in the back yard that take care of the electrical needs of her whole house. There being no further discussion Moderator Imse called for a vote. Majority vote was in favor. **Article 19 passed.**

Article 21 – By Petition – Street Renaming and Renumbering

(By Petition) To see if the Town will vote to amend an ordinance adopted by the selectmen on September 10, 2013, by striking sections 1 and 2 of Chapter 157 and replacing them with the following:

157-1. Definition.

For the purposes of this Article, "addressable structure" shall be defined as: Any buildings currently occupied, or which in the future may be occupied, to which emergency services may be dispatched.

157-2. Parties Affected.

- A. Properties and primary addressable structures on any new public or private way, street or road.
- B. Renaming and/or renumbering of any existing public or private ways, streets or roads shall not occur until approved by a vote of the legislative body.
- C. The provisions of sections 3, 4 and 5 of this ordinance shall remain in effect but shall apply only to new public or private ways, streets or roads unless a vote in accordance with Section B above has occurred.

Motion by Mr. Jeffrey Knight and seconded by Mr. Bob Arnold. Article 21 is adopted.

Presentation and Discussion

Mr. Chuck Douglas, 40 Stone Sled Lane, spoke to Article 21. State law does not require towns to rename or renumber streets but it is recommended. The Town of Bow appointed a Renaming and Renumbering Committee who came up with a recommendation to rename a section of Bow from South Road to Wood Hill Road, causing a substantial number of people to go through the cumbersome process of renaming and renumbering. Mr. Douglas stated that every time a building permit is pulled for an addressable structure, it triggers the entire road to be renumbered and/ or renamed. It is unnecessary and too much of an overreach. Currently the Select Board has the authority to issue renaming/renumbering orders. This Article seeks to give that authority to the legislative body (voters). In response, Selectman Judd stated he had been through the renumbering process and understands what it entails. When any street is renumbered and/or renamed, notices are sent out and the residents are invited to have their say at a public meeting.

Mr. Don Berube pointed out some inconsistencies between his physical address and the address listed on the voter registration list. Mr. Berube stated he understood renumbering if numbers were out of order but urged the Select Board not to renumber if there isn't a problem. Selectman Crisp noted the renumbering was a matter of the Police or Fire Departments being able to find the address. Ms. Hillary Judd, 25 Stack Drive formerly 1 stack drive, reiterated renumbering is a safety issue. Mr. Michael Lashon, 72 River Road, stated he had sent all the renumbering information on River Road into Google. Mr. Johnson wanted the Town to know that the company the Town hired to update GPS locations and addresses hadn't done it. Mr. Bryan Westover responded the Town had submitted the changes to Google, Mapquest and one other website which compiles maps and addresses for the first three groups. After that, he was told the State would be doing the updating and the Town no longer had to do it. Mr. Jeff Knight, Peaslee Road, stated his house had been renumbered from 2 to 8 Peaslee Road, even though with current lot size and setback restrictions another house couldn't be constructed on that road. Mr. Knight further stated that the system in place for renumbering wasn't working although efforts have been made to improve it. Selectman Crisp responded that the zoning restrictions may change at some point to allow another building. The State has recommend towns renumber on a 50 foot basis so as not to end up with parcels out of sequence. Mr. Knight said that using a specific number of feet didn't take into account wetlands and felt the system was lacking. Faye Johnson, Bow Heritage Commission, stated she was the representative from the Heritage Commission when the renumbering process started a few years ago. She was invited to 3 or 4 renumbering meetings but hasn't received an invitation since. Ms. Johnson felt some of the new street names didn't have anything to do with Bow history and further, the Town has lost some of the historic names because the 911 Committee said they couldn't be used. Responding to Ms. Johnson's concern that the Heritage Commission hadn't been asked to participate recently, Selectman Crisp said there hadn't been any renumbering or renaming since they had last received the Commission's recommendations. He further stated no votes are taken on new street names until the Heritage Commission has either provided or approved them. Ms. Lisa Cohen, Supervisor of the Checklist, explained why the street numbers weren't changed on the checklist. When notification of the address changes were received there were no names attached to the addresses. The Checklist goes by names not addresses. Ms. Cohen urged tax payers to check their addresses at voter registration or notify the Town Clerk. There being no further discussion Moderator Imse called for a vote on Article 21. Majority vote was in favor, Article 21 passed. Selectman Crisp called for a count on the vote. Moderator Imse asked those in favor to raise their cards and be counted with those opposed following suit directly after.

Vote on Article 21 is 80 – YES; 79 – NO. Article 21 is passed.

Article 22 – Reports

To hear reports of standing committees and take any action relating thereto.

Moderator Imse asked if there were any reports or actions to be taken under this Article. Sensing none, the Moderator entertained a motion to adjourn. A motion and second was received and the 2016 town meeting was adjourned at 11:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Mridula Naik, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Recorded and Prepared by Wendy Gilman