

1. **Public Hearing:** Nelson opened the public hearing on Petition Warrant Article #10. She asked if there was a petitioner here to speak to it. No petitioner was in attendance. She stated that this is not a board article but she will read the article and if anyone has any comments let us know. Article 10: By Petition: Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, and implement a tax cap whereby the governing body (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes, based on the prior fiscal year's actual amount of local taxes raised, by more than 1.5% (One and a Half Percent)?
2. **Public Comment:** Sonny Foss stated that at the deliberative session he didn't hear any pros or cons from the board. Nelson stated that the board is not in favor of this article. She stated that they feel it is a negative incentive to try to save money. She stated that the lawyer spoke to it as well and stated that every contractual obligation has to be met. She stated that tuition to Somersworth next year is going up 3% and at Marshwood 1.74% which is more than the 1.5% tax cap so the tuition went up more than the tax cap. Kunz stated that the number is arbitrary and he is not sure why the petitioners chose that number. He stated that most of the stuff that they deal with is contractual that they have no control over. He stated that they did an excellent job of reigning in the costs and he is not sure why the petitioner felt it was necessary. He stated that if we run into problems with costs involved it puts us in a bad spot. He stated that it gives me the impression that they feel we have been unresponsive and we have been anything but. Anderson stated that she agrees, the goal is to continue the cost savings where we can and we need time to continue to do that. Nelson stated that it is unfortunate that the petitioner is not here to speak to it. She stated that you are not expected to vote tonight this is just a public hearing that we had to hold by law and you will vote in March.
3. **Adjournment:** The public hearing closed at 6:22pm.

Katie Krauss
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval