Town of Amherst Deliberative Meeting Adjourns After Midnight continued from page 1

George Bower said on the contrary "This is a very good value at \$625,000 because you must consider the cost of developing the four fields already there."

Dana Redmond said flood plain land is well suited for active and passive recreation.

Article 23 for open space land bond was then amended to reduce the \$3 million bond to \$2,250,000. The original \$3 million bond included \$750,000 for active recreation, which was now covered in article 24. The amended article follows:

AMENDMENTS TO WARRANT ARTICLE 23 AS VOTED ON AT THE DELIBERATIVE **SESSION FEBRUARY 3, 2010**

Article 23: Open Space Land Bond

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$2,250,000) for the purchase of open space lands or other property interests as determined by the Selectmen and to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes therefore of not more than two million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$2,250,000) in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and, further, that the amount raised and appropriated herein may be used to defray the costs attributable to due diligence inspections, title search charges, closing costs and other similar charges associated with any such acquisition. These funds may only be expended to meet conservation and passive recreation needs. The authorization to borrow provided hereunder shall not lapse until five (5) years from the date of the passage of this article.

(The Board of Selectmen by a vote of 3-2 recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 5-2-0.)

This article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.13.

Article 26, Public Health Mosquito Surveillance and Control Program,

\$40,000 (\$0.02 tax increase); Article 27, Municipal Lease to Replace Transfer Station Scale, \$61,785 (\$0.01 tax increase); Article 28, Submission of Fact

Finder's Report, Police Department Employees Union, no tax impact; Article 29, Authorization for a Special Town Meeting if Article 28 is defeated.

Capital Reserve Funds

Article 30: Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund, authorize withdrawal of \$150,000 to purchase Emergency Response Ambulance.

Article 31: Establish a Bridge Replacement Fund with \$20,000, (\$0.01)

Article 32: Recreational Facilities Capital Reserve Fund, \$250,000 from surplus to deposit in Fund.

Article 33: Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund, raise \$150,000 to deposit in Reserve Fund, (\$0.08).

Article 35: Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund, raise \$35,000 and deposit in Reserve

Article 36: Communications Center Capital Reserve Fund, raise \$5,000 to deposit in Reserve Fund,

Article 37: Town 250th Anniversary Celebration

Capital Reserve Fund, raise \$5,000 to deposit in Reserve Fund, (\$0.01). Article 38: Forestview Cemetery Capital Re-

serve Fund, raise \$15,000 deposit to Reserve Fund, Article 39: Town Computer System Capital Reserve Fund, raise \$5,000 to deposit to Reserve Fund,

Article 40: Health and Human Services Agencies, to raise \$35,000 to support agencies that provide services to Amherst residents. (\$0.02)

Article 41: By petition, To Define Marriage. **Article 42:** By petition. A sense of the voters on returning to Town Meeting form of Government. Article 43: Amended. New wording follows:

AMENDMENT TO WARRANT ARTICLE 43 AS VOTED ON AT THE DELIBERATIVE **SESSION FEBRUARY 3, 2010**

To Create a Capital Reserve Fund for Transportation with an Additional Motor Vehicle Registration Fee (by petition)

To see if the town will vote to collect an additional motor vehicle registration fee of \$1.50 per vehicle for the purpose of supporting a municipal transportation fund for the purposes set forth in RSA 261:153 VI, and further, to vote to establish said fund which shall be a capital reserve fund established for this purpose and governed by the provisions of RSA 35. Proceeds from said fund are to be used to support eligible local transportation improvement projects, specifically public transportation, and furthermore, to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this Capital Reserve Fund.

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

The funds may be used as matching funds for state or federal funds, and shall be appropriated by the legislative body of the Town of Amherst for purposes stated in the warrant article only. The funds shall not be used to offset any other non-transportation appropriations made by the Town. The additional fee shall be collected from all vehicles, both passenger and commercial, with the exception of all terrain vehicles, as defined in RSA 215-A:1, 1-b and antique motor vehicles or motorcycles, as defined in RSA 259:4.

(The Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-4-1 recommends a no vote.) The Ways and Means Committee

unanimously recommends a no vote.) This is a door to door shared ride regional community transportation service. It would be supported in Amherst by a \$1.50 motor vehicle registration fee. Towns serviced are Amherst, Hollis, Brookline and Milford. The bus and driver are contracted from Nashua Transit System. Rides for doctor visits, shopping, physical therapy, pharmacies, social service agencies and local plazas would all be

Amherst Town Clerk Nancy Demers was asked to comment because she would be responsible for collecting the fee. "No petitioners came to discuss this with me. I would like to point out all of the extra fees and state surcharges we now have on motor vehicle registrations. Depending on weight of the vehicle, state surcharges are an extra \$35 to \$45. Transfer fees, vanity plates and conservation plates all cost more. I have some people come to my office crying because they can't afford the higher fees. It's a great idea, but there are so many fees that families are paying. I wish there were another way to do this." The article was amended from a \$2 fee to

Souhegan Deliberative continued from page 1

School Maintenance Fund and \$25,000 to the fund for Unfunded Liabilities for Retiring Employees. Since this money comes from the surplus, no additional taxation will be required.

The Finance Committee acknowledged the difficult economic times and noted the reductions made in staffing, technology, text books, replacement equipment and interscholastic supplies and travel. They also supported the use of surplus to fund these two expendable trust funds.

On the revenue sheet, Amherst's Adequacy Aid Grant is \$1,528,486, a \$41 increase over last year.

Mont Vernon's Adequacy Aid Grant is \$556,958, a reduction

Before adjourning Representative Bill Belvin did advise voters, 'There is turbulence in adequacy funding at the state house. This is a cautionary note that state aid as we know it may not contin-

The Amherst School tax is estimated to be \$6.43, an increase

The Mont Vernon School tax is estimated to be \$8.29, an increase of \$0.68.

Ballot voting will be on Tuesday, March 9th at the Souhegan gymnasium from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. for Amherst voters and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Mont Vernon Village School for Mont Vernon

Upcoming Issues of The Amherst Citizen:

Issue Date: February 23 Deadline: February 17

Issue Date: March 4 (Election Issue)

Deadline: February 25

Please submit Letters to the Editor and editorial news in advance of above deadlines.

THE AMHERST CITIZEN'S

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