



Town of Litchfield

Deliberative Session 2014

Article 2 - Aquifer Protection District

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Litchfield Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Amendments to section 1250 “Aquifer Protection District” of the Zoning Ordinance to clarify existing provisions including adding further details and examples to the definition of impervious, clarify that while the maximum impervious surfaces permitted are 15% applicants may apply for a conditional use permit to exceed that amount, and correct references to underlying zoning districts.

Article 2 - Aquifer Protection District

- Updated definition of impervious with detail and examples.
- Added a Reminder: A conditional use permit is allowed to exceed 15% impervious
- Corrected citations to the zoning districts.

Article 3 - Multi-Family Overlay District

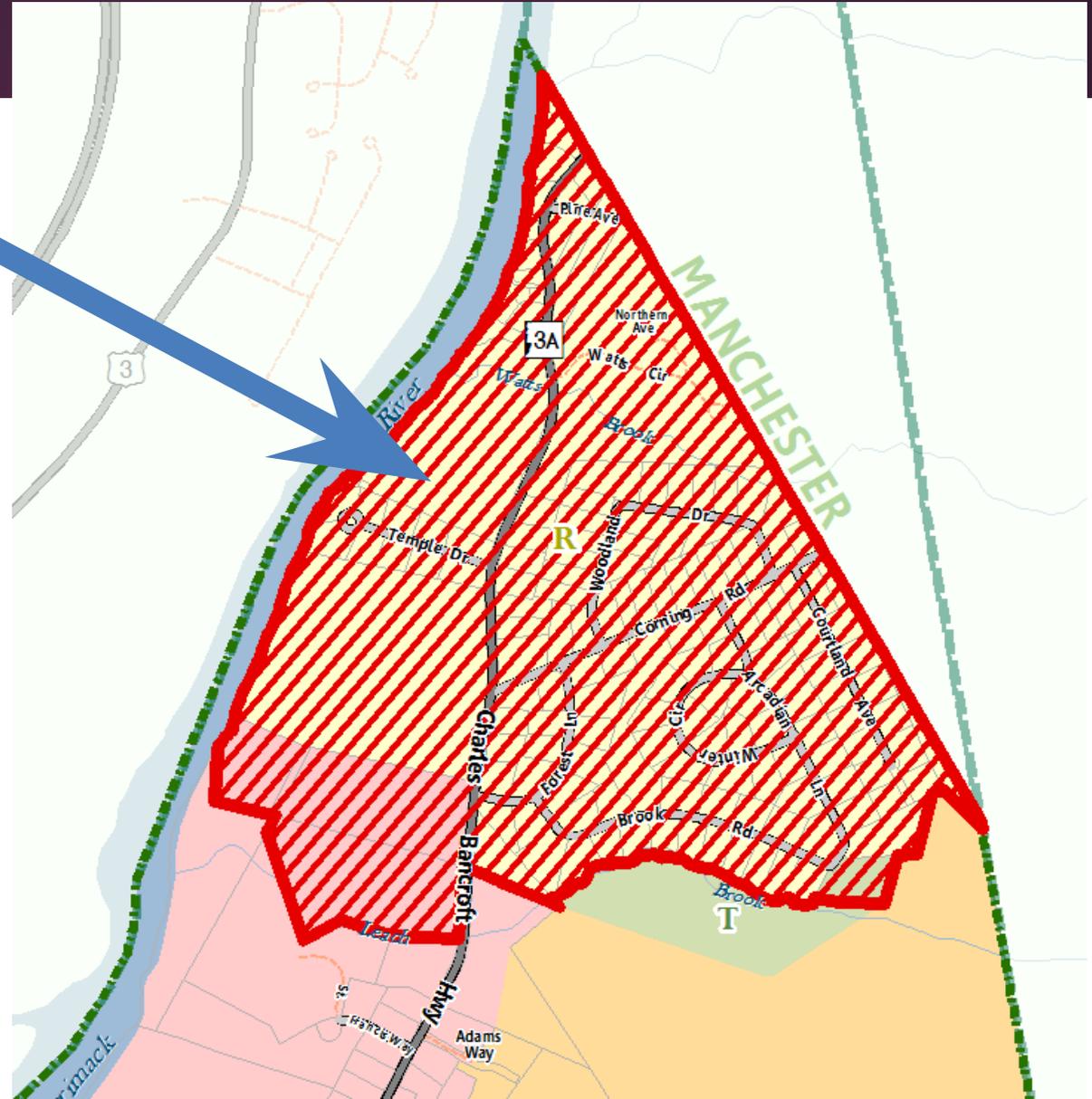
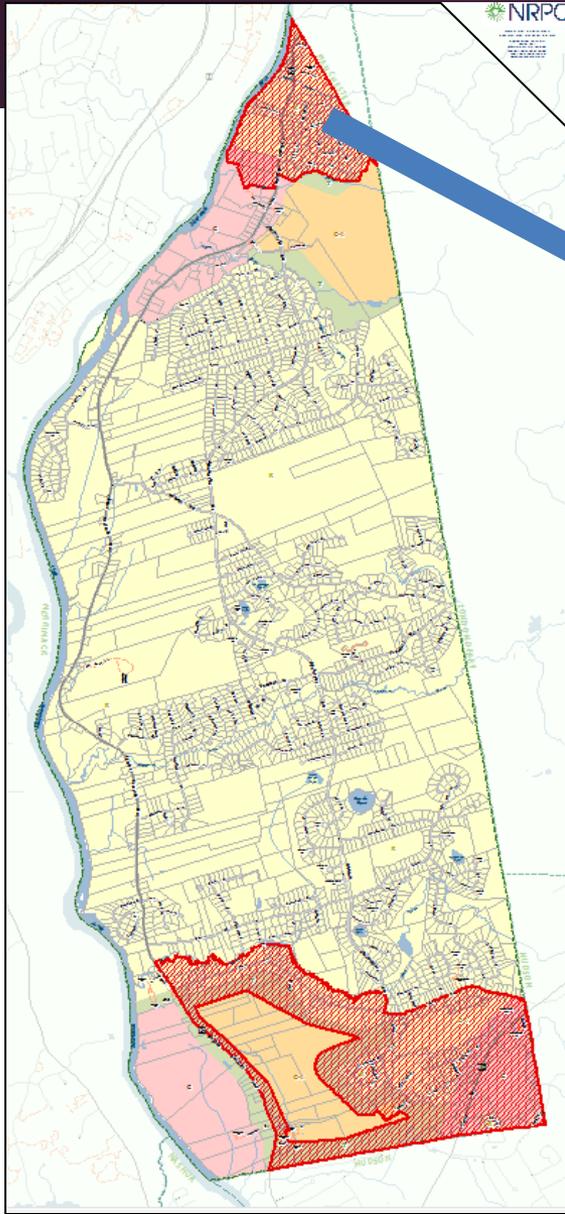
Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Litchfield Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Adopt a new zoning section 550.00 – 553.00 “Multi-Family Residential Overlay District,” to provide an opportunity for multi-family residences within the Town of Litchfield consistent with the Town’s single-family character and comply with NH State law. The purpose of the amendment is to provide opportunities for development of multi-family housing as required by state law. Any new multi-family construction shall maintain the existing character of the neighborhood. The minimum lot size shall be 2 acres for the first 3 dwelling units, with an additional 5,000 square feet required for each additional unit and no more than 6 dwelling units may be permitted in any one structure. The district boundaries shall be the Residential and Commercial Districts north of Leach Brook and the Residential, Commercial and Transitional Districts south of Chase Brook and east of Route 3A to Albuquerque Avenue and then south of Page Road.

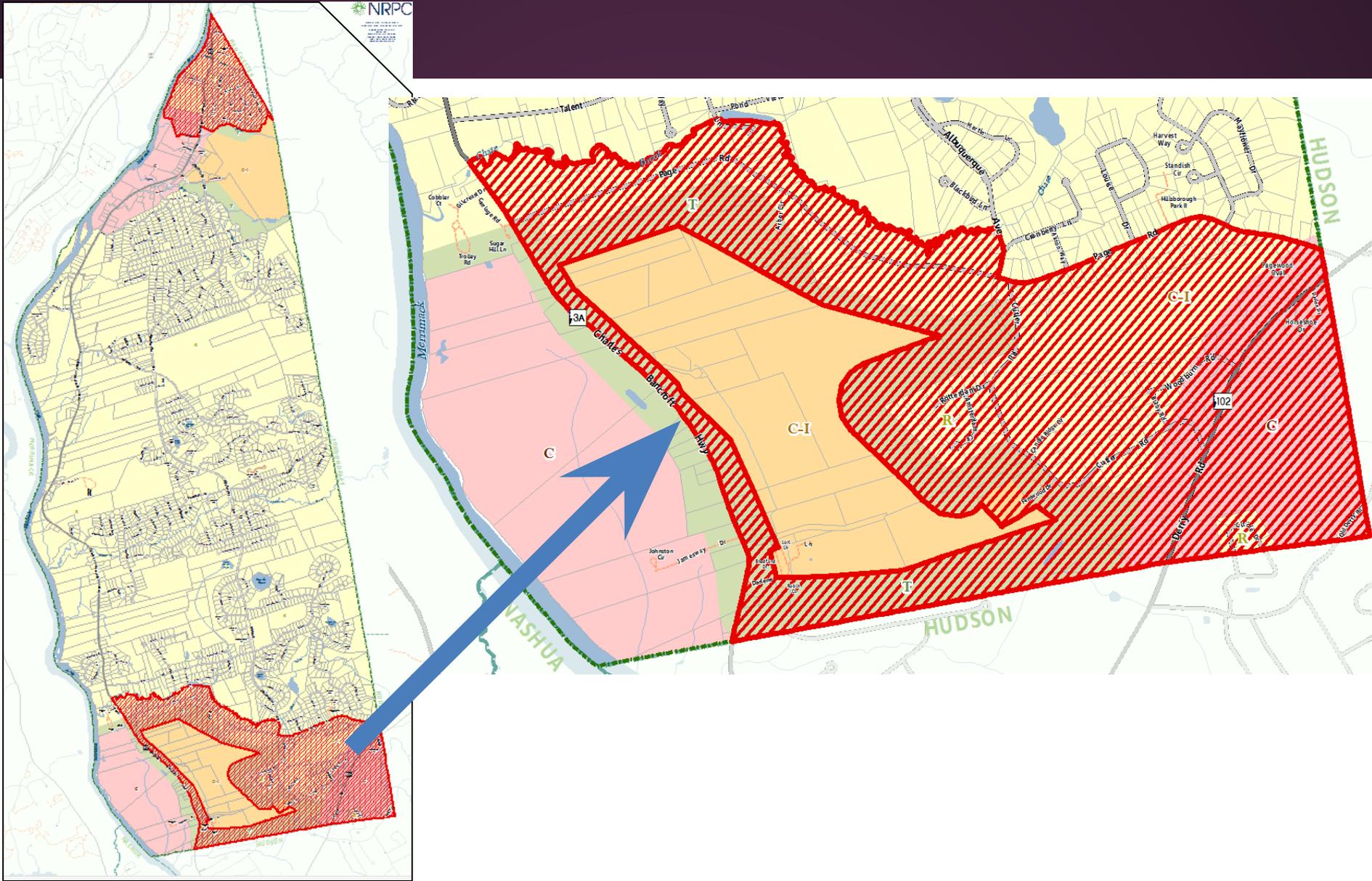
Multi-Family Overlay – WHY?

- Required by State Statute (RSA 674:58-61).
- Needed to prevent legal challenges.
- Good for economic development.
- Enables more housing options for employees of local businesses.

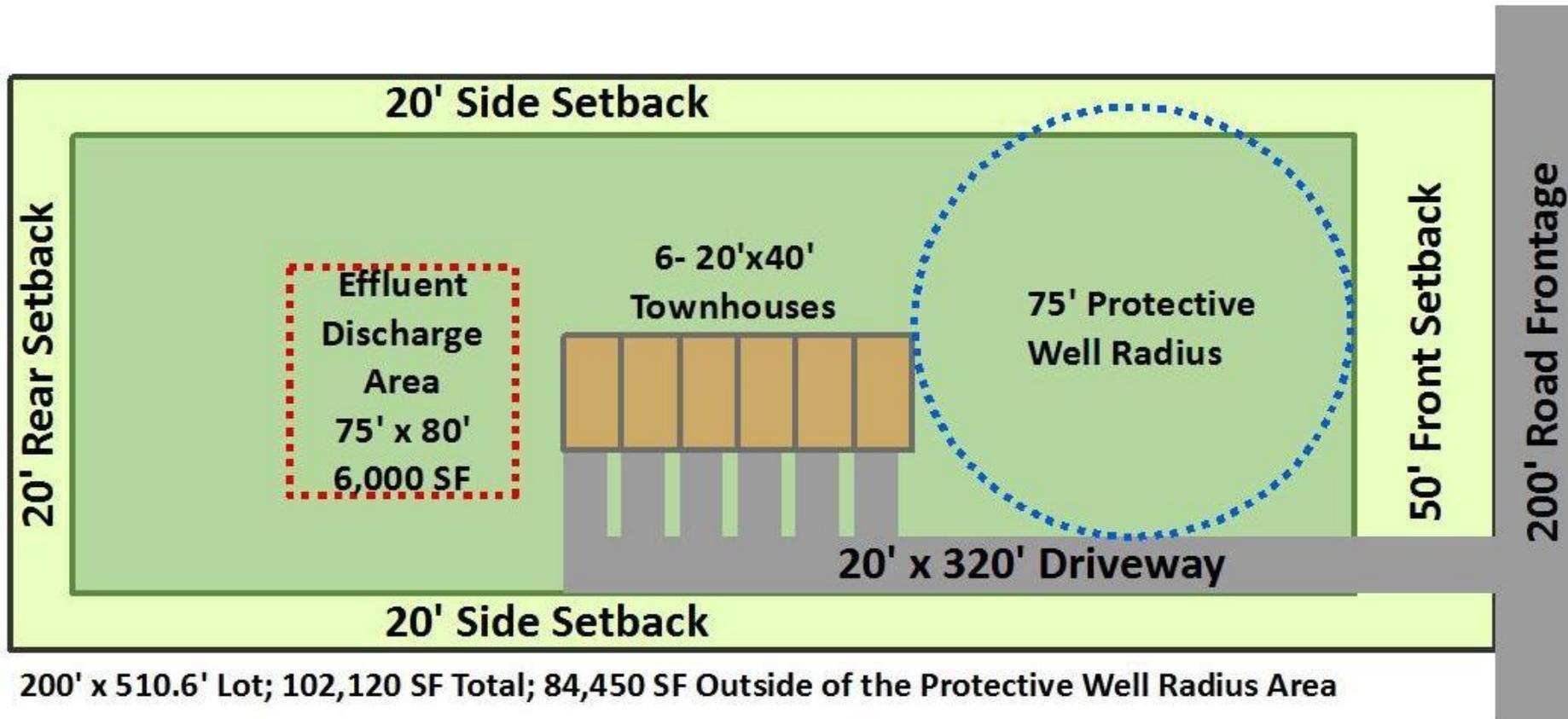
Multi-Family Overlay – WHERE?



Multi-Family Overlay – WHERE?



Multi-Family Overlay – HOW?



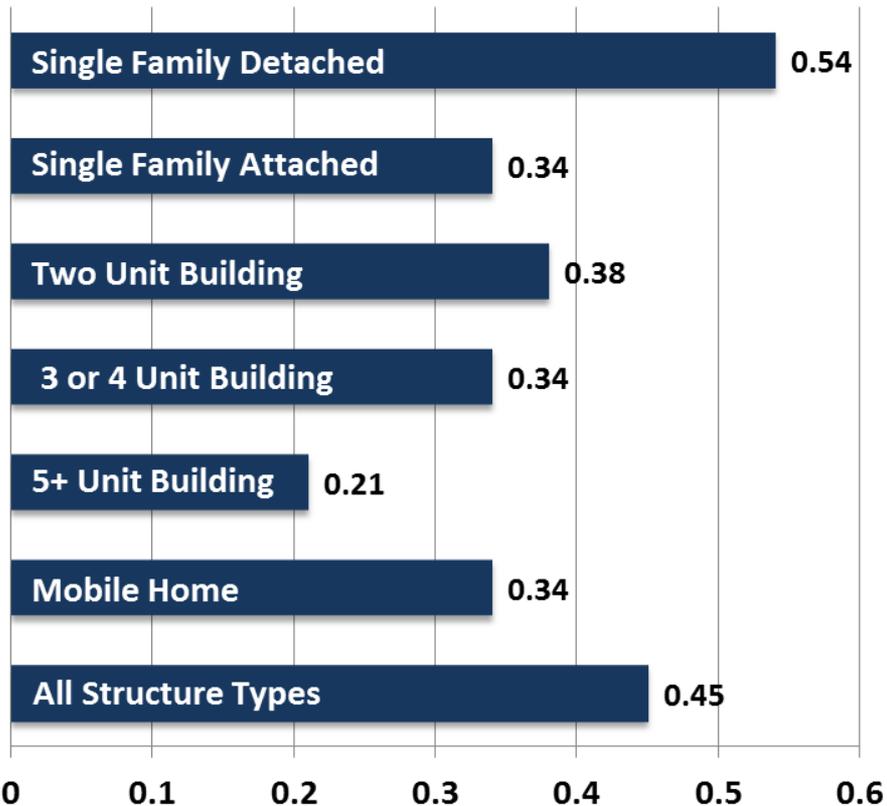
Multi-Family Overlay – HOW?



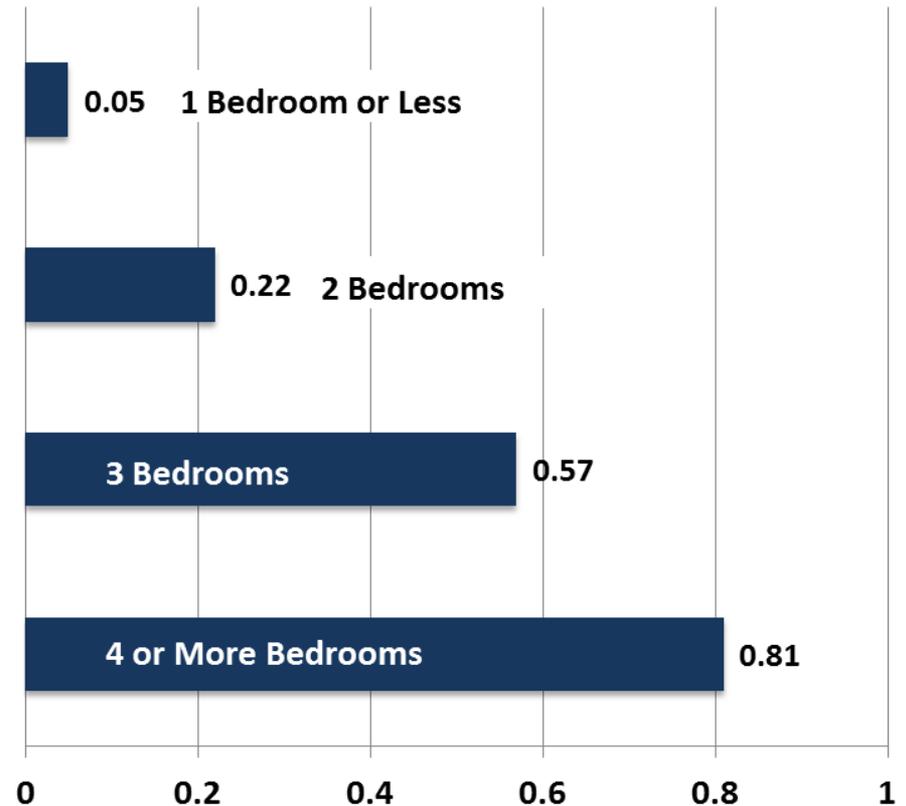
Will this impact our schools?

NH Public School Enrollment Generation by

Unit Type, Grades K-12



Number of Bedrooms, Grades K-12



Article 4 - Commercial Districts

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Litchfield Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Amend sections 600 “Highway (Route 102) Commercial District,” 700 “Southwestern Commercial District,” 800 “Northern Commercial District,” 900 “Transitional District,” 950 “Northern Commercial/Industrial District,” and 1000 “Southern Commercial/Industrial District” of the Zoning Ordinance as follows to require development compatible in character, style and scale with the abutting properties and the small New England Village and agricultural character of the town. New section 408 includes new standards (landscaping, lighting, screening unsightly features) to protect community character. The frontage requirements are reduced to 200 feet on Routes 3A and 102. Permitted uses are amended as follows: expand agricultural uses permitted in all 6 districts; large regional shopping type uses, such as department stores, exceeding a footprint of 20,000 square feet are not permitted in the Northern and Southwestern Commercial Districts; antique stores and bed and breakfasts are permitted in the three commercial districts; disallow hotels in the Northern and Southwestern Commercial Districts; clarify that motor vehicle sales do not include salvage yards; and disallow car dealerships in the Southwestern Commercial District. Supporting definitions to the expanded permitted agricultural uses are added to section 200. Within all six districts clarify that “site coverage” is synonymous with impervious surfaces. The zoning district boundaries are revised to update parcel references to correspond to the current assessing maps. The three parcels currently zoned Commercial-Industrial and Transitional at the intersection of Morgan Road, Colby Road and Route 3A are rezoned as Northern Commercial. To reduce instances of split lot zoning the various parcels in the Transitional District along Route 3A (south of Page Road) and the southern town-line are rezoned as Commercial or Commercial-Industrial. Several parcels south of Page Road and east of Route 3A are rezoned to be entirely in the Transitional district. The Highway Commercial district is revised to follow parcel boundaries of those currently either entirely or partially within the district and to include those south of Woodburn Road and east of Bixby road and exclude residential parcels along Derry Road.

Non-Residential Amendments

6 Non-Residential Zoning Districts:

- 600-Highway Commercial District (Route 102)
- 700-Southwestern Commercial District
- 800-Northern Commercial District
- 900-Transitional District
- 950-Northern Commercial/Industrial District
- 1000-Southern Commercial/Industrial District

Non-Residential Amendments

General Requirements for Non-Residential Uses:

- Outside Storage
- Vehicular Access
- Landscaping
- Lighting
- Screening

Non-Residential Amendments

Performance Standards: Non-residential uses be compatible in character, style & scale with:

- abutting properties
- small New England Village
- agricultural character of the town

Meet provisions of new Section 408 – General Standards

Non-Residential Amendments

Permitted Uses – Amended as follows:

- Large shopping limited to 20,000 sf footprint in the N and SW Commercial Districts;
- Antique stores and bed and breakfasts allowed in commercial districts;
- No hotels in the N and SW Commercial;
- Vehicle sales don't include salvage yards;
- No car dealerships in SW Commercial;
- Expand agricultural uses permitted.

Non-Residential Amendments

Other Amendments:

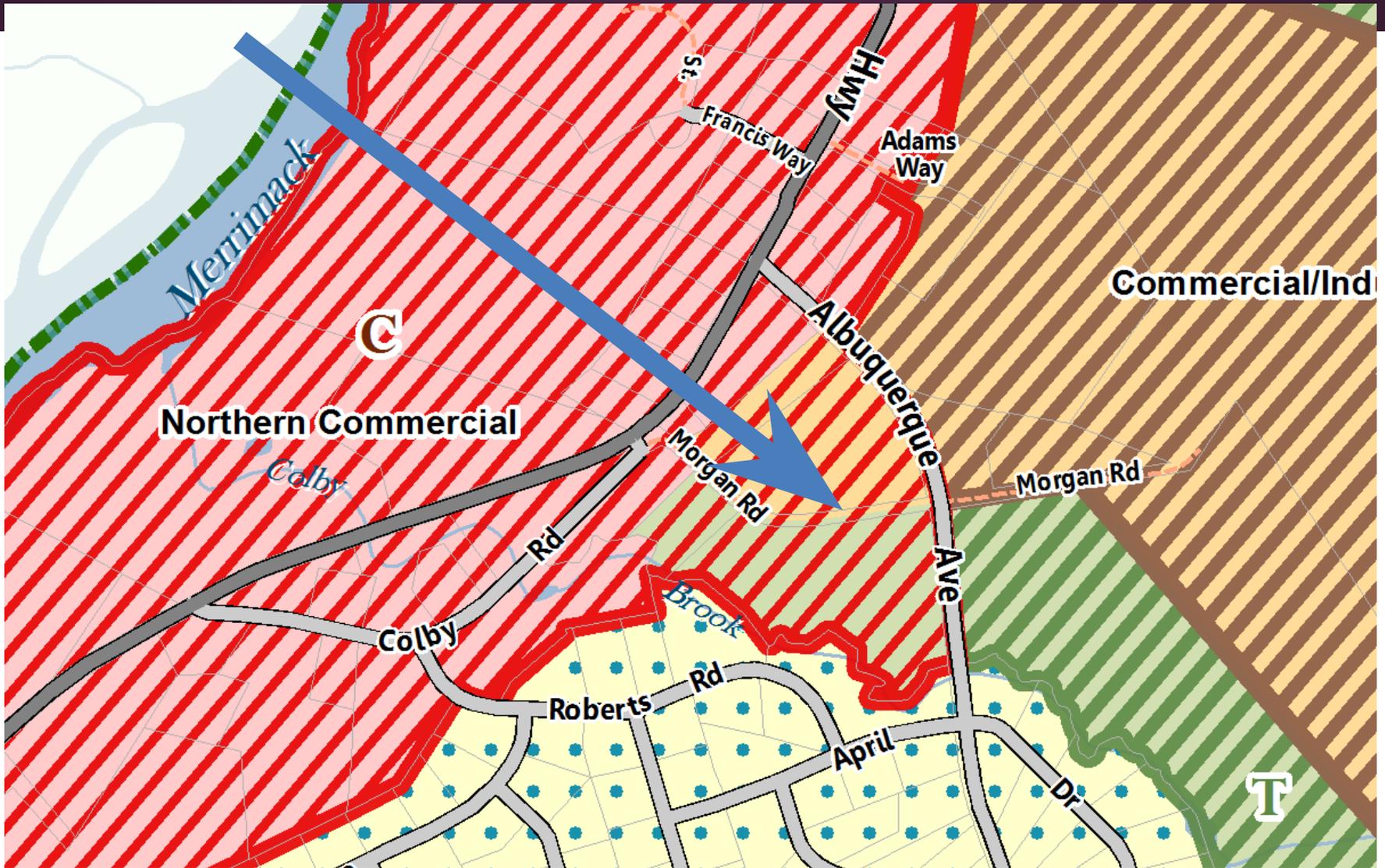
- Frontage reduced
- “site coverage” = impervious surfaces
- Three new Definitions:
 - agricultural processing plant,
 - agritourism, and
 - farm roadside stand.

Non-Residential Amendments

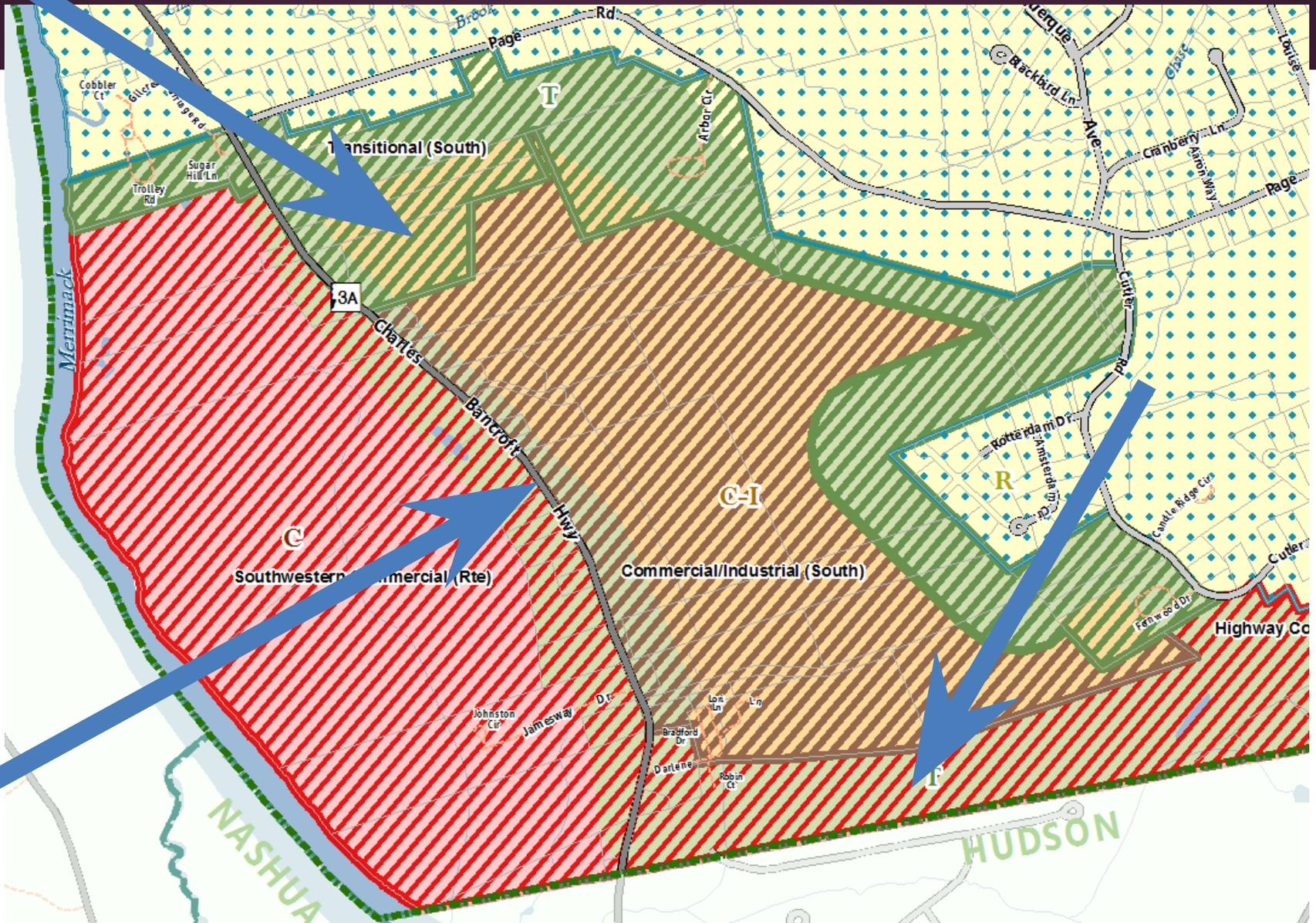
Zoning District Boundary Changes

- Update boundary descriptions to current day
- Minimize instances of split-lot zoning
- Fine tuning

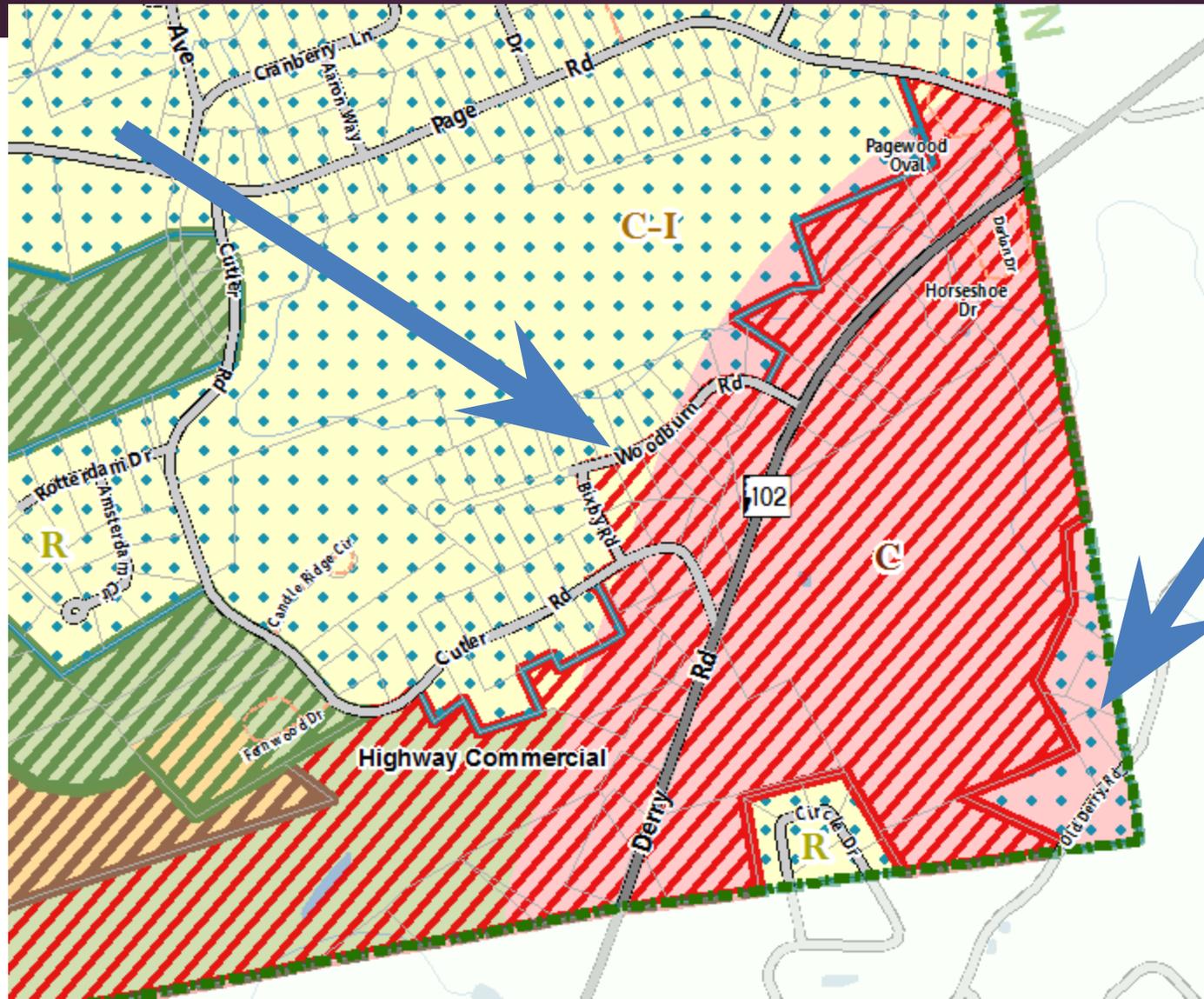
Non-Residential Amendments



Non-Residential Amendments



Non-Residential Amendments



Article 5 - Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriation by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth in the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by the vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling, \$5,130,166. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$5,007,408 which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Litchfield or by Law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Estimated 2014 tax rate: \$3.58

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 4-0-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 5-3-0)

General Budget Overview

- **Process**

- Department and BOS reviews began in August
- Focus was on priorities and services
 - working with each department to understand needs and priorities
- Combined accounts to take advantage of billing discounts and tighter budgeting
- BOS presented to Budget Committee began in end of Sept until around the Thanksgiving

- **Operating within the Default**

- Coming within 1% of the approved appropriation.

Budget Highlights

- Information Technology increase
 - Discontinued individual department phone services and replaced with Fairpoint and Verizon Wireless services. Telecommunications billing consolidated from departments into IT budget
- Hydrants increase of 11.56% to \$295,658
- Highway Road Block Grant of \$170,500 (revenue pass through from state)
- Police 3% increase
 - 2 new police cruisers in budget along with lease payments for 2 cruisers acquired in 2013
- Legal Services savings of 50% from 2013 - changed firm and pricing
- Library increase due to health insurance costs
- General Gov't increase predominantly due to consolidation of fuel accounts
 - Combined fuel facility at Highway Department. Gasoline budgets from Highway, Police & Fire moved to General Gov't.
- Personnel Administration increase due to increased cost of NH Retirement

Revenue Expectations

Title	2013	2014	Revenue Increase/Decrease Amount	Revenue Increase/Decrease Percentage
Timber Tax	1,562.00	1,500.00	(62.00)	-3.97%
Payments in Lieu of Taxes – Hudson	31,095.00	31,095.00	-	0.00%
Excavation Tax	2,004.00	2,000.00	(4.00)	-0.20%
Interest & Penalties on Delinq. Taxes	42,979.00	41,500.00	(1,479.00)	-3.44%
Business Licenses & Permits	1,670.00	1,625.00	(45.00)	-2.69%
Motor Vehicle Permit Fees	1,341,834.00	1,384,900.00	43,066.00	3.21%
Building Permits	25,000.00	28,265.00	3,265.00	13.06%
Other Licenses, Permits, and Fees	27,895.00	28,050.00	155.00	0.56%
Revenue from Federal Gov't	7,958.00	350.00	(7,608.00)	-95.60%
Revenue from State of NH	539,866.00	539,890.00	24.00	0.00%
Income from Departments	80,075.00	87,850.00	7,775.00	9.71%
Sale of Municipal Property	800.00	800.00	-	0.00%
Interest on Investments	4,574.00	4,500.00	(74.00)	-1.62%
Other Miscellaneous Revenue	25,953.00	31,295.00	5,342.00	20.58%
Total Revenues & Credits	2,143,436.00	2,183,620.00	40,184.00	1.87%

Budget Summary

Department	2013 Default	FY 14 Budget Committee	Budget Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Budget Increase/Decrease Percentage
ACCOUNTING	193,451.00	198,829.00	5,378.00	2.78%
ADVERTISING & REGIONAL ASSNS	13,360.00	13,375.00	15.00	0.11%
AMBULANCE	49,500.00	51,500.00	2,000.00	4.04%
ANIMAL CONTROL	16,807.00	15,122.00	(1,685.00)	-10.03%
BOARD OF SELECTMEN	108,788.00	108,204.00	(584.00)	-0.54%
CEMETERIES	9,503.00	8,308.00	(1,195.00)	-12.57%
CODE ENFORCEMENT	79,291.00	76,899.00	(2,392.00)	-3.02%
CONSERVATION	2,206.00	2,181.00	(25.00)	-1.13%
DEBT SERVICE	1.00	1.00	-	0.00%
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	9,286.00	9,385.00	99.00	1.07%
FIRE DEPARTMENT	501,690.00	499,065.00	(2,605.00)	-0.52%
FIRE STATION	265,020.00	295,658.00	30,638.00	11.56%
GENERAL GOVERNMENT FACILITIES	53,557.00	107,881.00	54,324.00	101.45%
HEALTH AGENCIES	1,900.00	1,900.00	-	0.00%
HEALTH DEPARTMENT	1,611.00	1,636.00	25.00	1.55%
HIGHWAYS AND STREETS	580,751.00	575,930.00	(4,821.00)	-0.83%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	49,579.00	61,104.00	11,525.00	23.25%
INSURANCE NOT OTHERWISE ALLOCATED	58,174.00	59,028.00	854.00	1.47%
LEGAL EXPENSES	40,800.00	20,400.00	(20,400.00)	-50.00%
LIBRARY	197,899.00	221,151.00	23,252.00	11.75%
MOSQUITO DISTRICT	29,910.00	29,950.00	40.00	0.13%
PARKS AND RECREATION	89,075.00	84,880.00	(4,195.00)	-4.71%
PATRIOTIC PURPOSES	949.00	902.00	(47.00)	-4.95%
PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION	434,803.00	470,302.00	35,499.00	8.16%
PLANNING BOARD	55,599.00	54,701.00	(898.00)	-1.62%
POLICE DEPARTMENT	1,318,905.00	1,354,513.00	35,608.00	2.70%
REVALUATION OF PROPERTY	46,780.00	49,703.00	2,923.00	6.25%
ROAD AGENT'S OFFICE	31,603.00	28,238.00	(3,365.00)	-10.65%
SANITATION ADMINISTRATION	369,462.00	358,472.00	(10,990.00)	-2.97%
STREET LIGHTING	11,500.00	10,925.00	(575.00)	-5.00%
SUPPORT SERVICES	139,167.00	143,167.00	4,000.00	2.87%
TAX COLLECTION	91,556.00	92,663.00	1,107.00	1.21%
TOWN CLERK	92,309.00	94,974.00	2,665.00	2.89%
TOWN MEETING	9,507.00	8,533.00	(974.00)	-10.25%
VENDOR PAYMENTS	20,000.00	20,000.00	-	0.00%
ZONING BOARD	767.00	666.00	(101.00)	-13.17%
Total	4,975,066.00	5,130,166.00	155,100.00	3.12%

Where are we already

Winter Storm Costs

2014 salt budget \$54,450 - \$21,712 spent through 1/30

Overall winter maintenance costs - expectation to be 16.75% spent through end of January; currently at 22.5%

Hydrant bills

Have gone from monthly charge of \$22,085 to \$23,632

New Hampshire Retirement System

Monthly payments increased from approximately \$30,000 to \$36,000

Article 6 - Road Improvement

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$170,000 for the purpose of road pavement improvement projects. This sum matches the amount expected to be received and appropriated by the Town through the NHDOT Highway Block Grant. It is anticipated that these funds will be used toward the costs of repairs to Cutler Road and Stark Lane. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the improvements are completed or by December 31, 2016, whichever is sooner.
Estimated 2014 tax rate impact: \$0.21

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 6-2-0)

Total Road Mileage

Maintain approximately 77 miles of roads
16.71 miles currently in need of repair (26%)

- 61% in good condition
- 13% in fair condition
- 26% in poor condition

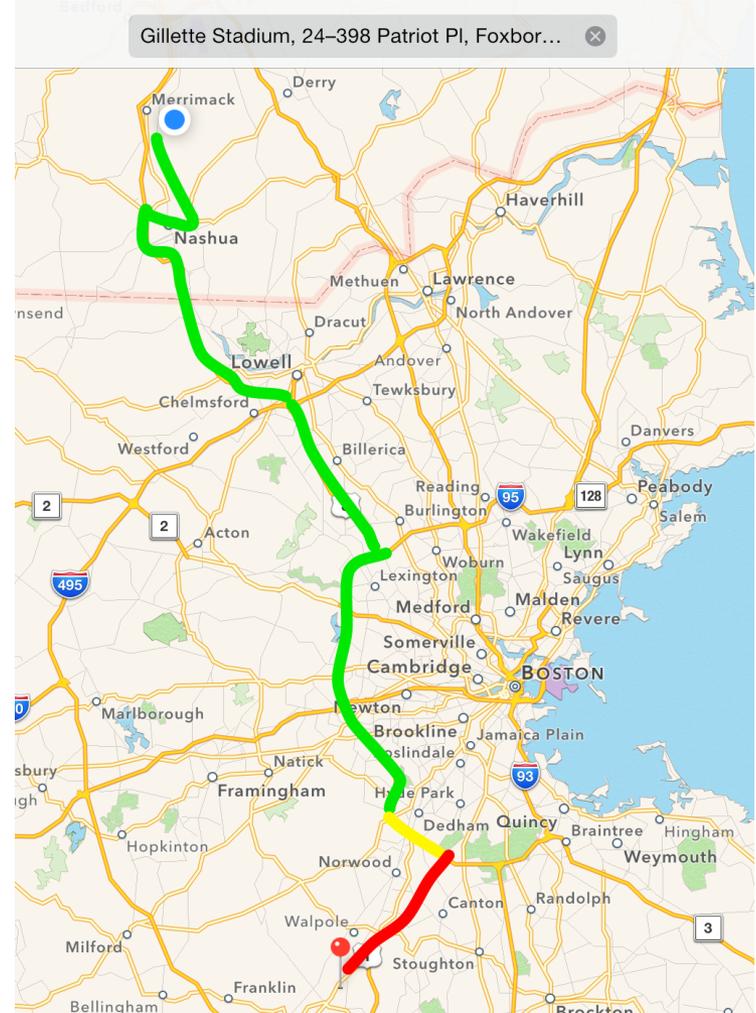
Bringing all Poor roads to Good condition has current cost of \$4,636,905.

\$35.8 million was estimated value of town owned pavements in 2012

From Town Hall to Gillette Stadium

Town maintained road network would stretch from Litchfield to Gillette Stadium

- **GOOD - Litchfield to Dedham**
- **FAIR - Dedham to I-95/I-93**
- **POOR - I-93/I-95 to Stadium**



Current rate of investment

At \$170,000 annual spending (amount of Highway Block Grant), it would take 27.25 years to bring all Poor roads into Good condition (not accounting for any inflation)

since 1992 cost of asphalt has increased 460% (NHDOT)

Past projects

In 2008, anticipated costs of replacing culverts in vicinity of Albuquerque and various other projects estimated at \$1.5 million.

Road Agent extended wetlands permit, bid projects early and reviewed designs.

Albuquerque Culvert at Chase Brook, Cranberry Lane Culvert, Page Road Culvert (and lowering of road at between Cutler and Albuquerque) as well as Roberts Road Drainage and Paving - completed for \$748,247.78.

As savings have arisen in these projects or in other ways (like light winters), several smaller paving projects completed - including Oak, Acorn & Blue Jay.

Over the past 6 years, the Road Agent has cut Highway Operating budget from approximately \$700,000 in 2008 to approximately \$435,000 proposed for 2014. This article, combined with the proposed budget, would be less than spent on Highway purposes 6 years ago.

Proposal

Town match of state Block Grant of \$170,000, providing \$340,000 for road improvements each year.

- Reduces deferred repair costs
- Allows funds for pavement preservation as well as reconstruction
- Some roads in the Fair category can have pavement overlay (less than half the price of full reclaiming for Poor roads)

Block Grant of \$170,000 included within operating budget. Article would provide an additional \$170,000.

Major Road projects 2014-2018

\$170,000 per year (current)	\$340,000 per year (proposed)
Mike Stark Nesenkeag Robyn	Mike Cutler Stark Robyn Nesenkeag Blue Jay Masquah High Plain Underwood Pilgrim Parker

Article 7 - Fire Department Airpack Replacement

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$207,000 for the purchase of replacement breathing apparatus equipment, \$21,000 to be raised from taxation with the remaining \$186,000 representing Litchfield's share of a regional grant being applied for by the towns of Litchfield, Goffstown, Dunbarton, Weare, New Boston and Bedford. If the grant is not received, the amount to be raised and appropriated will be reduced to \$21,000 and the expected grant funds will be raised and appropriated at a future town meeting. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the equipment is purchased or by December 31, 2016, whichever is sooner.

Estimated 2014 tax rate impact: \$0.03

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 4-0-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 8-0-0)

Article 7 - Fire Department Airpack Replacement

- As part of membership in Souhegan Mutual Aid system, have joined with Goffstown, Dunbarton, Weare, New Boston and Bedford to seek a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant
- Covers 90% of cost for each community
- Will replace all current Airpacks (SCBA) which were manufactured in 2001.
- Life expectancy under NFPA standards is 15 years



Article 7 - Fire Department Airpack Replacement



Replacement systems include:

- Heads up display - air tank levels visible in the face piece
- Universal RIC connection - ability to connect with any other manufactures unit.
- Ergonomic harness and frame - Lighter weight frame and streamlined harness to help minimize chances to trap firefighters
- Compatibility - Currently no other FD around us uses Survivair, limits ability of interoperability between departments
- Changes to end of service alarm levels (Current 25% New requirements 33%)
- Improved voice communications when wearing SCBA
- Universal sound/signal when PASS (personal alert safety signal) is activated
- Higher temperature ratings on face pieces

Article 7 - Fire Department Airpack Replacement

Department of Revenue requires that article lists full cost of package - the 90% grant share and the 10% town share

This article requests \$21,000 to be raised by taxes

If the grant application is successful, the \$21,000 will be used as a match and we will have authorized the acceptance of the grant and appropriation for the replacement equipment

If the grant is not successful, the Town will need to develop an alternate plan to replace by 2016. The \$21,000 will remain available for that purpose through the end of 2016

Article 8 - Police Contract

Shall the Town vote to approve the cost items for wage and related costs that have been included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Litchfield and Council 93 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees which provides for the following increases in wages and benefits:

2014: \$44,562

2015: \$31,355 (estimated)

And further, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$44,562 for the 2014 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional cost attributable to the increase in benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels. This collective bargaining agreement covers the full and part time patrol officers and full time dispatchers.

This contract contains no raise for 2014 and a 2% raise in 2015.

Estimated 2014 tax rate impact: \$0.05

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 4-1-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 6-2-0)

Article 8 - Police Contract

Proposed Final Contract - Two Year Cost

- **\$71,917 Total** - Cost Breakdown
 - 2014 - \$42,562 (tax impact \$0.052)
 - 2015 - \$29,355 (tax impact \$0.036)

Contract Contains

- Wage Progression - 2014 = **0%**; 2015 = **2%**
prior contract: 2011 - 0%; 2012 - 1%; 2013 - 2%
- 2014 Education 1 time stipend (will not carry through to subsequent years)
- Ongoing degree completion stipend if degree is completed while employed by Litchfield
- Third shift differential increases from \$0.50 to \$1.00 per hour; Increased individual uniform replacement accounts to be managed by Department through the Chief;

Article 8 - Police Contract

- 457(b) Voluntary Retirement Plan match up to \$1000 per year per member
 - To be eligible, officer must work detail and commit up to \$1000 of detail earnings for deposit in the 457(b) plan. Town's match expense will only be paid from detail revenues. Will not impact taxes;
 - Requires increasing the detail rate charged to users to \$59.75.
 - Dispatch members will be eligible if they commit up to \$1000 of earnings for deposit in the 457 plan. Town's match expense will be paid by increase in administrative share of detail rate reimbursed to general fund, such that no additional tax dollars will be need to pay this (included in the \$59.75 above).
- I
- Reduced maximum earned time for new employees to 660 hours (retain 960 for current employees)
- Converted individual health and dental insurance cost sharing to 80%/20% (same as 2 person and family)
- Removed outdated position references

Article 9 - Contract Special Meeting

Shall the Town, if article 5 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 5 cost items only? (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)

Article 10 - Stormwater Management Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Stormwater Management Expendable Trust Fund pursuant to RSA 31:19-a. Furthermore to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for deposit into this Fund and to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund. The Fund can be used for the costs associated with engineering, documenting, repair and planning of stormwater and drainage systems as well as compliance with EPA stormwater system permits.

Estimated 2014 tax rate impact: \$0.05

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 4-1-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 4-3-1)

Article 10 - Stormwater Management Trust Fund

Stormwater discharges by municipalities governed by permit from EPA.

Last permit issued in 2003

Extensive revisions to permit have been underway since 2008

Draft permit released by EPA in 2013 and subject to extensive comments by affected municipalities (including Litchfield).

Current 2003 permit has requirements for basic system mapping, public education and reasonable management

Likely requirements under new permit significantly more intensive

- Analysis of collection networks
- Outflow testing
- Comprehensive education
- Technical management plans for discharges

Overall cost of compliance significantly higher. Will require additional engineering support - can no longer be managed in-house.

Compliance with draft permit carries an estimated cost of \$75,000 - \$90,000 annually if completely handled by engineers (*estimate based on proposals received by other towns*).

Article 10 - Stormwater Management Trust Fund

Proposal to update mapping to build drainage networks

Evaluate current system for capacity, risk and construction condition

Define and prioritize catchment areas (permit requirement) and identify outfalls requiring further study and testing

Notice of Intent preparation and submission

- First step in compliance with new permit
- Clock starts ticking following issuance of permit
- Permit is anticipated to issued in 2014

Trust Fund allows provision of funds to start on compliance measures and system analysis if permit is issued as well as preparation for an eventual permit

Overall risk assessment of network is also important for planning and managing future Highway Department projects as well as to prioritize repairs

Article 11 - Repainting Old Town Hall

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for repainting the Old Town Hall and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of that amount from the unexpended fund balance as of December 13, 2013. This price includes legally required abatement of lead paint. This would have a net cost to 2014 general taxation of \$0.

Estimated 2014 tax rate impact: \$0.00

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 4-1-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 7-0-1)

Article 11 - Repainting Old Town Hall

- Last painted over 10 years ago
- Portions of the building trim and shutters contain lead paint which requires special treatment
- Historic building, representative of Greek Revival architecture
- Constructed from the timbers of the Town's original 1734 Meeting House

Article 12 - Talent Hall Roof

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$43,120 for the replacement of the roof on Talent Hall and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of that amount from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2013. This would have a net cost to 2014 general taxation of \$0.

Estimated 2014 tax rate impact: \$0.00

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote 6-0-1)

Article 12 - Talent Hall Roof

- Existing roof is a bow roof with metal deck covered with 2 inches of insulation, asphalt paper and roof sealant
- Current roof is over 20 years old and is now brittle
- Over the past 4 years, several leaks developed by seams failing and rocks and sticks penetrating the roof
- Proposed new roof to be a rubber membrane over 4 inches of insulation
- Proposes using fund balance to pay for project

Article 13 - Human Service Agencies

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,952 to support the requests of Human Services agencies including Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Home Health & Hospice, St. Joseph's Community Services, Bridges and Community Council of Nashua.

Estimated 2014 tax rate impact: \$0.01

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 6-1-1)

Article 13 - Human Service Agencies

Agency requests = \$31,916

	2013 ACTUAL	REQUEST
Big Brothers/Big Sisters - <i>served 5 from Litchfield</i>	\$475	\$500
Home Health & Hospice - <i>1074 home health visits; 176 footcare & flu clinic visits</i>	\$2,375	\$10,000
St. Joseph's Community Services - <i>served 29 clients in Litchfield</i>	\$570	\$1500
Bridges - <i>served 31 residents and emergency shelter for 1 resident for 124 nights</i>	\$200	\$200
Community Council - <i>adult outpatient services to 32 residents at a cost of \$19,038</i>	\$1,332	\$14,685
Lamprey Health Care - <i>primary care, 30 residents made 95 visits to Nashua Area Health Center</i>		\$800
Court Appointed Special Advocates - <i>served 350 children in county</i>		\$500
American Red Cross - <i>based on \$0.45 per capita</i>		\$3,731

Article 14 - Earned Time Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Vacation Accrual Expendable Trust Fund created in 2011 and return the balance of such fund to the Town's general fund. The balance of this fund as of December 31, 2013 is \$59,629. And further, to see if the Town will vote to establish an Earned Time Accrual Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of annually accounting for the cost of earned but unused vacation time so that the expenses associated with employee resignations, retirements and buyouts of accrued earned time do not impact the current year budget, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$59,629 to put in the fund, with this amount to come from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2013; and to further to appoint the Board of Selectmen to serve as agents to expend from the fund. This would have a net cost to 2014 general taxation of \$0.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 4-0-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 8-0-0)

Article 14 - Earned Time Expendable Trust Fund

Original fund for accrued vacation time created in 2011
(Vote: 905-400)

Current union contract and personnel policy converted to Earned Time in 2013

Both contract and policy allow for a limited buyback of earned time (rather than banking for retirement/separation)

Article allows use of these funds for payment of buyback as well as retirement/separation

Mechanics are closing 2011 fund, depositing balance into General Fund, then taking that balance and opening a new fund with the adjusted purpose

Article 15 - Extend Liquor Sales

To see if the Town will vote to allow on premise licensees for liquor sales to sell until 2:00 am as authorized by RSA 179:17 II(b).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 4-1-0)

Article 15 - Extend Liquor Sales

- Enabled by 2013 law change, allowing a local option to extend from 1 am to 2 am
- Police Department expressed no specific concern about changing the hours of sale, expect minimal impact
- PD is staffed around the clock;

Article 16 - Conservation Fund Cap

To see if the Town will vote to amend the 2011 vote regarding the deposit of land use change tax funds into the Conservation Fund to authorize 80% of the land use change tax collected pursuant to RSA 79-A:25 to be deposited into the conservation fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5, III, as authorized by RSA 79-A:25, II; however, in no event shall the balance in the Conservation Fund be permitted to exceed \$1,000,000.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 4-0-0)

Article 16 - Conservation Fund Cap

Balance as of December 31, 2013 - \$957,537.33

Provides citizens an opportunity to determine the maximum growth and continued utilization of the Conservation fund

In concert with the next warrant article, this allows for the voters to determine whether to carry over additional amounts into the Conservation fund on a yearly basis

Ensures that citizens are annually made aware of the progress made by the Conservation Commission on preserving Litchfield's valuable properties

Article 17 - Land Use Change Tax Fund

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 79-A:25-a to account for revenues received from the land use change tax in a fund separate from the general fund? Any surplus remaining in the land use change tax fund shall not be part of the general fund until such time as the legislative body shall have had the opportunity at an annual meeting to vote to appropriate a specific amount from the land use change tax fund for any purpose not prohibited by the laws or by the constitution of this state. After an annual meeting any unappropriated balance of the land use change tax revenue received during the prior fiscal year shall be recognized as general fund revenue for the current fiscal year. Any land use change tax which is to be placed in the conservation fund in accordance with RSA 79-A:25, II, shall first be accounted for as revenue to the land use change tax fund before being transferred to the conservation fund at the time of collection.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)

Article 17 - Land Use Change Tax Fund

Operates in combination with Article 16

Any excess land use change tax revenues would be held in this fund for one year

At the next Town Meeting, warrant article to decide allocation of those funds to: tax reduction, conservation purposes, other funds

Intent is to avoid volatility in tax rates - land use change tax revenues would automatically go to Town revenues in year received. If a large property were to come out of current use, this could sharply lower taxes one year, but then cause a large increase the following year since the land use change tax was a one time special revenue

Money in the Land Use Change Tax Fund must be used after 1 year - if Town Meeting does not accept recommendations on warrant, balance automatically is used to offset taxes in that year

Article 18 - Expand Conservation Fund Uses

To see if the Town will vote to rename the fund which has in the past been referred to interchangeably as the Town Conservation Fund, the Conservation Land Acquisition Fund and the Conservation and Land Acquisition Fund to the “Conservation Fund,” and to confirm that this fund may be used for all purposes authorized for conservation funds under RSA 36-A.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)

Article 18 - Expand Conservation Fund Uses

- “Town Conservation Fund” created in 1971
- Gradual deposits over years
- Deposits made into “Conservation Land Acquisition Fund” in 1994, 1996, 1997
- Deposits made into “Conservation and Land Acquisition Fund” in 1998, 1999, 2003
- In 2003, Land Use Change Tax revenues to be deposited into “Conservation and Land Acquisition Fund”
- Law allows for Commission to “manage and control” land and resources acquired or given to them
- Want to clarify that existing fund can be used for “manage and control” purposes, not just land acquisition
- Examples of projects - tree planting, trail maintenance, field maintenance, milfoil control in Darrah Pond

Article 19 - Route 102 Intersection

To see if the Town will direct the Board of Selectmen to bring to the 2015 annual meeting, an article to study alternatives and potential costs for a controlled intersection allowing access to Route 102.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)

Article 19 - Route 102 Intersection

- Citizens have brought concerns to Selectmen about safety of intersection of Page Road and Route 102
- Previous review by NHDOT showed that traffic did not meet test for installing traffic lights
- Recognize that impacts Litchfield residents, but actual intersection is in Hudson
- Possibility of reviewing older plans on file for extensions of Albuquerque and proposed Industry Road
- Article seeks to determine if there is interest for a study proposal to be brought to next Town Meeting

Article 20 - Appoint Capital Improvement Program Committee

To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a Capital Improvement Program Committee pursuant to RSA 674:5, which shall include at least one member of the Planning Board and may include but not be limited to other members of the Planning Board, the Budget Committee, or the Board of Selectmen, to prepare and amend a recommended program of municipal capital improvement projects projected over a period of at least 6 years.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 4-0-0)

Article 20 - Appoint Capital Improvement Program Committee

Currently, responsibility of Planning Board

- Traditionally used as a basis for establishing amount of impact fees
- By statute the committee will consist of at least one member of the planning board, the budget committee, and the town governing body
- Plan should be a management tool for community
- Goals are to identify upcoming capital equipment needs and to develop a schedule and payment plan that minimizes volatility in the the tax rate
- Appropriations for specific purposes will still require Town Meeting approval

Article 21 - Elderly Exemptions

Shall we modify the elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Litchfield, based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers, for persons 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$50,000; for persons 76 years of age up to 80 years, \$80,000; and for persons 81 years of age or older, \$125,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income in each applicable age group of not more than a dollar amount determined by the town of not more than \$30,000, or, if married, a combined net income of not more than a dollar amount determined by the town of not more than \$45,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$300,000, excluding the value of the person's residence and one automobile (the automobile of greatest value if more than one is owned).

The modifications will take effect April 1, 2014.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)



Article 21 - Elderly Exemptions

	Exemption 65-74	Exemption 75-79	Exemption 80+
Litchfield	\$50,000	\$80,000	\$125,000
<i>Median</i>	<i>\$60,000</i>	<i>\$80,000</i>	<i>\$125,000</i>
	NO CHANGE	NO CHANGE	NO CHANGE
	Single Income	Married Income	
Litchfield	\$30,000	\$45,000	
<i>Median</i>	<i>\$30,000</i>	<i>\$43,500</i>	
	NO CHANGE	NO CHANGE	
	Single Asset	Married Asset	
Litchfield	\$300,000	\$300,000	
<i>Median</i>	<i>\$90,000</i>	<i>\$90,00</i>	
PROPOSED	\$150,000	\$150,000	

Article 21 - Elderly Exemptions

Data from 2012 DRA report of 20 comparable sized towns

Current asset limit is very high -- next highest is Bow at \$200,000

Asset limit excludes primary residence and one automobile

Article also adjusts language regarding residency qualifications to match state law

Article 22 - Appointed Road Agent

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the elected office of Highway Agent, and to authorize the Selectmen to appoint the Highway Agent. The current Highway Agent shall continue to hold the office until the 2015 Annual Town Meeting election, at which time, the elected office shall terminate. If adopted, the authority of the Selectmen to appoint the Highway Agent shall continue in effect until changed by a majority vote at an annual or special town meeting.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote:4-1-0)

Article 22 - Appointed Road Agent

Allows Board of Selectmen to appoint Road Agent

Consistent with previous voter approved transitions of Fire Chief and Treasurer from elected to appointed

Board currently has close working relationship with Road Agent and wants to be able to ensure that this remains in the future

Highway Department is second largest department of the town (12% of budget)

Article 23 - By Petition

To see that with NH RSA 154:16 the town shall provide a Fair, Honest and reasonable hourly wage for employees willing to risk their life. To establish a minimum hourly fire department “on call” hourly wage of \$16.31, after the successful completion of the probation period. This has been the starting hourly rate for “on call” firefighters from 6/2010. This hourly rate is the budgeted rate for the current budget (FY13/14). This minimum hourly rate represents a reduction of \$1 hour over the proposed budgeted (FY14/15) average wage. This shall be the minimum fair hourly wage for an “on call” fire department employee, who may at any point, be asked or obliged to endanger knowing or unknowingly, their own wellbeing to rescue others, on behalf of the community of Litchfield NH, based on the duties of a Firefighter or Medical Technician, and or for the good of the community or country. A Pay Scale, showing all levels and qualifications for these levels, of Fire and Rescue personnel shall be posted and displayed for public review. Until such time as changed by the actions of future town warrants.

Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 0-4-1)

Article 24 - By Petition

To see that in conjunction with NH RSA 154 the town will protect the Safety and Welfare of “on call” fire department personnel and to further raise and appropriate the sum of \$0 which represents a Health and Accident insurance policy program that covers approximately 37 “on call” fire department personnel who are NOT union and NOT regular part time Town Employees or otherwise under contract or of a bargaining unit. The town shall maintain this current type Health and Accident insurance policy program with the same provisions and limitations as the current Provident Health and Accident insurance policy program the town has contributed to for the last 3 years, until such time as changed by the actions of future town warrants. \$3354.00 of this sum is included in the current town budget for this purpose.. Current provided Death or Impairment insurance to the level up to \$100,000 will be provided if a member should be killed or impaired in the performance of their duty or volunteering for the community. Current provided income insurance to the level up to \$400 a week, will be provided if a member should be injured in the performance of their duty or volunteering for the community to make up for wages lost from regular income.

Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 0-4-1)

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 0-7-1)

Article 25 - By Petition

To see that with RSA 154:1 the town will direct the Board of Selectmen to set and post the mission and hours needed of the Fire Chief to Lead, Teach and Train the “on call” members of the fire department in the current arts and skill of Fire, Emergency Medicine and Rescue Operations. The Fire Chief shall establish, post and maintain a Fire Department mission statement. The Fire Chief shall work no less than a yearly average of 32 hours per week, excluding vacation and excused absenteeism. The Fire Chief will post and maintain regular business hours. The Fire Chief shall follow town policies, state and federal laws and standards in the creation and application of any rules and regulation s/he should adopt or create. The Fire Chief shall not impose any minimum performance standard on any “on call” individual that Fire Chief cannot meet or otherwise be fairly applied to all “on call” employees.

Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 0-4-1)