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selves short in the long run” if we don’t increase the amount to \$170,000.

Dan Coolidge asked whether the \$10,000 difference could come out of the Winter Materials line item.

Jeff Miller expressed concern that the savings in Winter Materials due to the Town’s new sand pit might not continue due to “permitting issues.” He said, “Swapping money [between those two line items] is a bad plan.”

Selectman Don Gross pointed out that “we tried to save Winter Materials money by decreasing the amount of salt we add to the sand, but that caused big chunks of ice in the sand which made it hard on the guys who sand and plow the roads.”

The proposal to increase Winter Equipment Rental to \$170,000 failed on a show of hands.

Alan Hanscom of the Recreation Committee spoke to the difference between the Selectmen’s recommended \$31,080 on the Parks and Recreation line item (the same amount as was approved in the 2011 budget) and the Budget Committee’s recommended \$28,000. Alan said that because the 2012 ski program is already complete, any reduction in the Recreation Committee’s budget would have to come entirely out of the swim program and the soccer program, both of which would be hurt by the reduction.

Carroll Gautreau of the Budget Com-

mittee said that the figure of \$28,000 was based on the fact that the Recreation Committee only spent about \$21,400 of their \$31,080 budget last year.

The proposed increase was defeated on a voice vote.

Mary Anne Levesque asked why the Street Signs line item had increased from \$2,000 in the 2011 budget to \$3,000 in the 2012 budget when only \$590 was actually spent last year.

Road Agent Jon Champagne said that many street signs have been stolen and need to be replaced for safety.

Chuck Keyser suggested that we spend a little extra on tamper-proof bolts for the signs in order to save the cost of replacing them.

Ed Becker recounted a story from the time he served as Town Administrator. The road agent had slathered grease on the street sign poles to deter theft, and a mother called the Town Office to complain about the grease getting all over her child’s clothes.

Don Kaplan asked if the Town is considering any alternative to spending \$250,000 annually on equipment rental.

Jeff Newcomb of the Budget Committee said, “We’re going to start looking at it and perhaps report back later with a more detailed report.”

Andy Guptill said that when he

was a selectman in 2005 and 2006, “we started noticing it was harder and harder to hire trucks because we were paying substantially less than New Hampshire DOT.” The selectmen subsequently raised the rental rates the Town pays. That doesn’t explain the entire 2006 increase that Carroll Gautreau noted earlier, Andy said, but it does explain some of it.

Carla Levesque noted that both Construction Debris Disposal and Old

to be properly maintained.

Charlie McCrave said that the \$10,000 they didn’t spend last year wasn’t good management, but it went back into the General Fund. Now they’re asking to have it back.

The reconsidered amendment passed on a voice vote.

Mary Anne Levesque moved to decrease the Construction Debris Disposal line item to \$10,000. There was no second.

Moderator Ed Becker called for a vote on the 2012 budget, with amendments, at \$1,263,054. The voice vote in favor was all but unanimous.

Warrant Article 3

To add \$20,000 to the Bridge Rehabilitation Capital Reserve Fund.

Toby Locke pointed out that we only made about \$200 interest last year on about \$400,000 in capital reserve funds and asked what are the benefits of capital reserve funds when interest rates are so low.

Jenn Coffey pointed out that without capital reserve funds, the tax rate would rise sharply every time we had to replace a police cruiser or a bridge.

Trustee of Trust Funds Joanne Edgar said that the trustees work with the bank quarterly to get the best interest rate they can.

Article 3 passed all but unanimously.

Warrant Article 4

To add \$18,550 to the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund.

Town Administrator Marj Roy amended the article to the correct figure, which should have been \$13,440. The amendment and the amended article each passed.

Warrant Article 5

To withdraw \$18,550 from the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund.

Again, Town Administrator Marj Roy amended the article to the correct figure, which should have been \$13,440. The amendment and the amended article each passed.

Warrant Article 6

To add \$10,000 to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

Article 6 passed all but unanimously.

Warrant Article 7

To add \$10,000 to the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund.

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Selectmen Vicky Mishcon and Don Gross confer with Town Administrator Marj Roy. Photo: Charlie Darling

Landfill Testing and Mowing were budgeted this year at about three times the amount actually spent in 2011.

Ken Tripp of the Recycling Committee replied that Construction Debris Disposal is offset by the fees contractors and homeowners pay to dump construction debris at the Transfer Station.

Howard George pointed out that the Recreation Committee held no meetings last year and that it didn’t spend its year-end money as it always had in the past. He asked that the meeting reconsider the earlier proposal to increase the Parks and Recreation line item to \$31,080. The meeting agreed to reconsider the proposed amendment on a show of hands.

Carroll Gautreau of the Budget Committee said that this is an opportunity for the Recreation Committee to regroup. The current budget item of \$28,000 is \$7,000 more than they spent last year, “so I think they’ll be OK.”

Howard George listed all the things that go into maintaining the Town beach and the Blackwater Park, and all the equipment required to run the ski, soccer, and swim programs. He pointed out that Blackwater Park is the nicest facility in the area and a valuable asset to the town that needs

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