

47 administration and went over every line item and worked extremely hard to bring a
48 budget with a very low increase.

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50 Mr. Brown discussed Article 4: the School Maintenance Trust, which is asking to add
51 \$65,000 to the expendable trust. He discussed the need for this warrant article for
52 unanticipated items and to minimize the tax impact by repairing things outside of the
53 budget.

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55 Marilyn Peterman stated that the Advisory Finance Committee unanimously supports this
56 warrant article. She stated that the school board has been doing this a long time and it is
57 a good way to pay for things.

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59 Mr. Grondstra discussed Article 5: Athletic Facility Private Expendable Trust to establish
60 an expendable trust. There is no cost to the taxpayer and the trust will only be accepting
61 private funding. The purpose of the trust is to raise funds for a new athletic center at
62 Souhegan, including a new track and a multi-sport turf field.

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64 Marilyn Peterman stated that the Advisory Finance Committee unanimously supports this
65 warrant article.

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67 Ms. Janson described the tax impact summary for Amherst and Mont Vernon. The
68 Maintenance Trust would have a \$0.03 impact in Amherst and a \$0.04 in Mont Vernon.
69 The Athletic Trust has no tax impact.

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71 Ms. Janson stated that there was a lot of thought and work put into the budget and
72 warrant articles to help to maintain the quality of instruction for the students.

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74 Jan Bunker, Atherton Lane, stated that she respects the time and effort of the board, but
75 wanted to add reality from the community about the rising cost of living in Amherst. Her
76 taxes went up \$600 in one year. The tax dollars go to the education system, which is
77 continuing to see decreasing populations in the schools. She finds it hard to support the
78 increasing budgets and maintaining the staff levels. She asks that people take this into
79 consideration. She stated that the increases are going to be tough to sell this year.

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81 Ms. Janson stated that the population has decreased, but this year they have seen
82 unanticipated increases.

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84 Mr. Ingram stated that they prepared the budget for this year with an enrollment of 857,
85 and in October the enrollment was 861 and has continued to increase. Students moving
86 into the district or moving back from private schools is causing the increase. The
87 enrollment may break 870 and they are not seeing the decrease they were anticipating.
88 They will continue to look at lower numbers, but the enrollment may climb more than
89 projected.

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91 Ms. Janson closed the public hearing.

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