

Budget Committee
February 3rd 2016
7:00PM
Town Office/Police Station Conference Room
PUBLIC HEARING

Budget Committee Members: Judy Brotman, Susan J. MacKenzie, Phil Barta, Erik Colberg, Greg Lange, Richard Jones, Charles Ragan, Elizabeth Glenshaw and Wilkes McClave. Select Board members: Jay Smith & Patty Jenks. School Superintendent Mike Harris and Principal Jeff Valance. Community members: David & Barbara Roby, Julia Elder, Tim & Lynn Cook & Kevin Peterson (Town Moderator).

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by Chair Brotman.

Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes of January 20th 2016. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. A change was offered. Motion voted unanimously in favor with changes noted.

1. The Public Hearing on the “money” warrant articles for the School was opened at 7:10PM.
2. School:
 - Warrant articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 were reviewed and discussed.
3. Ms. Brotman opened the floor to public comments.
 - Questions were asked about Article 3-the kindergarten appropriation.
 - What the school does with its surplus and the Capital Reserve and trust funds
 - Encouraged trying to put larger amounts of funds into the CRF and Trust funds to build them back up.
 - Any surplus goes into the Special Ed CRF and the High School Tuition Trust up to \$25,000 each then any surplus would be carried over to the next year.

The following School Warrant Articles were voted as listed below:

- **Article 3** (After K Program) – Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve article 3 in the amount of \$46,503. Seconded by Mr. Barta. Motion voted 7 in favor and 1 apposed (MacKenize).
- **Article 4** (Discontinue Enrollment Response Capital Reserve) – vote not necessary
- **Article 5** (Establish Enrollment Response Capital Reserve Fund) - Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve article 5 in the amount of \$50,060. Seconded by Mr. McClave. Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.
- **Article 6** (Establish Post Retirement Benefit Capital Reserve Fund) - Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve article 6 in the amount of \$50,060. Seconded by Mr. McClave. Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.
- **Article 7** (Transfer of Surplus to Special Education Fund) - Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve article 7 in the amount of \$25,000. Seconded by Mr. McClave. Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.

- **Article 8** (Transfer of Surplus to High school Trust Fund) – Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 8 in the amount of \$25,000. Seconded by Mr. McClave. Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.
 - **Article 9** (Salaries of Officers) – Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve the salaries of the school officers at the noted rates (School District Treasurer-\$800.00, School District Clerk-\$75.00 & School District Moderator-\$75.00). Seconded by Mr. McClave. Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.
4. At 7:54PM Chair Brotman closed the Public Hearing on the School Warrant Articles involving money and opened the Public Hearing on the Town Warrant Articles involving money.
 5. Ms. Brotman opened the floor to public comments. There being none at this time the hearing moved on to discuss the town warrant articles.
 6. The following Town Warrant Articles were voted as listed below:
 - Article 6) (Block Grant) – Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve in the amount of \$89,265. Seconded by Mr. Ragan. At this time Mr. Jones expressed interest in designating these funds for the River Road Slump project to help with the costs. After a brief discussion Chair Brotman noted it was not appropriate for the budget committee at this time to try and designate funds from the Warrant Articles. The Budget Committee is to vote on amounts within the articles only, not wording. Town Meeting was the appropriate place to have this discussion. The motion was voted 6 in favor, 2 against (Jones & Barta).
 - Article 7) (To CRF & Trust Funds) - Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve in the amount of \$478,700. Seconded by Mr. Ragan. A brief discussion concerning the Annual Leave Fund and (GASB rules) concerning liabilities as to employee earned time. Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.
 - Article 8) (Withdrawal from CRF & Trust Funds) – Ms. Mackenzie moved to approve in the amount of \$195,813. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.
 - Articles 9) (Lease of Roller) – Ms. Mackenzie moved to approve \$18,081. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Ms. MacKenzie reviewed the road work done involving the roller. Dirt roads are holding up better and people are noticing the difference. Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.
 - Article 10) (Paved road repairs) - Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve in the amount of \$75,000. Seconded by Mr. McClave. Ms. MacKenzie reviewed the ongoing problems with River Road. River Road has many areas with significant safety issues and these are going to take time and funds to fix. The Board will be using most of these funds on keeping the southern section of River Road open & engineering on the Slump section already closed. The budget committee suggested the board be ready for more detailed explanation of the use of these funds at town meeting. Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.

- Article 11) (To purchase a tank & sprayer unit) – Ms. Mackenzie moved to approve in the amount of \$14,325. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Ms. MacKenzie reported how this equipment would be used and the savings it will create in the funds spent for salt during the winter months. Also the positive environmental impact this will have is a plus. This equipment will also be used to spray dirt road to keep the dust down.
The motion was voted 6 in favor, 2 against (Jones & Ragan).
- Article 12) (Withdrawal from Cemetery Gifts & Donations) – Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve in the amount of \$16,486. Seconded by Mr. McClave.
Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.
- Article 13) (Transfer to New Cemetery fund) – Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve in the amount of \$1,600.00. Seconded by Mr. McClave.
Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.
- Article 14) (Independence Fund) – Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve in the amount of \$5,378. Seconded by Mr. McClave.
Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.
- Article 16) (Emergency Management Grant) Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve in the amount of \$8,000. Seconded by Mr. McClave, For the purpose of updating the Lyme Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) to be funded 50% (up to \$4,000.00) through a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), with the remaining 50% (up to \$4,000.00) to be raised by taxation.
Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.

(Note: the Article numbers will change because of the additional River Road Article)

- 7 Ms. MacKenzie explained the board does not have a proposal for the River Road “slump “repair. Amounts should be coming from the engineer in roughly 2 weeks. The board originally decided not to request a warrant article for the River Road because of the lack of information at this time. After reviewing the costs associated with holding a special town meeting and the concerns of possibly not being granted this option MacKenzie is going to go to the Select Board meeting to request an article be developed and presented at Town Meeting. Followed was a discussion of logistics and concerns of costs. MacKenzie felt that it was important to at least try and get this on the warrant in hopes that adequate information for costs and plans would be available for town meeting. If the board does not request funds now the chance of not having any funding to work with this summer could keep the road closed for a significant longer period of time.
- 8 The budget committee reviewed the time line for an additional Public Hearing. February 12th, 2016 @ 7:00PM-7 members confirmed they could be at this Public Hearing if the Select Board voted to add an additional article to the warrant at its meeting the following day.

- 9 Kevin Peterson noted if there was a possibility that the Board may want to continue the Town Meeting for any reason the Board should seek legal advice on how this should be done.
- 10 The Public Hearing was closed.
- 11 The Budget Committee signed the MS-27 for the School.
- 12 The Budget Committee signed the MS-737 for the Town with the understanding that if the Select Board voted to go forward with an additional Warrant Article and revised MS-737 would need to be signed with the new numbers reflected.

Upcoming meeting reminders:

- Public Hearing- February 12th, 2016 @ 7:00PM
- Little Town meeting March 1st, 2016 @ 7:00PM
- School District Meeting March 3rd, 2016 @ 6:00PM
- Town Meeting March 8th, 2016 @ 9:00AM.

At 9:20 PM Mr. McClave moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Ragan. Voted unanimously in favor.

Sincerely,

Dina Cutting