

Budget Committee
February 4th, 2015
7:00PM
Town Office/Police Station Conference Room
PUBLIC HEARING
Approved: September 16, 2015

Present –

Budget Committee Members: Judy Brotman, Charles J. Smith, Robin Taylor, Richard Jones, Brian Cook, Phil Barta, Earl Strout, Greg Lange, and Elizabeth Glenshaw.

Selectboard members: Susan MacKenzie & Patricia Jenks

Superintendent: Mike Harris. Librarian: Judy Russell. Administrative Assistant: Dina Cutting.

Community members: Julia Elder and Cynthia Bognolo

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Brotman.

1. Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes of January 21, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Taylor. Voted 6 in favor, 1 abstention.
2. The Public Hearing on the “money” warrant articles for the School and the Town was opened at 7:03PM.
3. Ms. Brotman opened the floor to public comments. There being none at this time the hearing moved on to discuss the School warrant articles.
4. School: Mr. Harris reviewed the various warrant articles. Article 2 was reviewed and discussed. The teacher’s negotiation has been completed with a 2 year agreement. The end result is a \$0 increase to the budget. Article 4 and 5 were briefly reviewed. Any funds left at the end of the school year will go first to the Special Education CRF (up to \$25,000) with the balance (up to \$25,000) going to the High School Tuition fund. The Building Maintenance CRF was reviewed.

The following School Warrant Articles were voted as listed below:

- **Article 2:** (Collective Bargaining Agreement) - Mr. Jones moved to recommend approval of Article 2 as proposed in the Warrant. Seconded by Mr. Barta. The motion was voted unanimously in favor 7-0.
- **Article 3** (Operating Budget) – Mr. Jones moved to approve Article 3 in the amount of \$6,001,026. Seconded by Mr. Lange. Motion voted unanimously in favor 7-0.
- **Article 4** (Special Education Reserve fund) - Mr. Strout moved to approve Article 4 in the amount of \$25,000. Seconded by Mr. Jones. Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0
- **Article 5** (High school Tuition fund) – Mr. Jones moved to approve Article 5 in the amount of \$25,000. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.
- **Article 6** (Salaries of Officers) – The approved salaries of the school officers at the noted rates (School District Treasurer-\$800.00, School District Clerk-\$75.00

& School District Moderator-\$75.00) are included in the operating budget total and have been voted previously.

5. Town: Mr. Smith reviewed various increases to the Capital Reserve long range planning, noting that the cost of vehicles has increased more than what the long range plan had accommodated. The Selectboard has also adjusted the schedule for replacement with the town going out farther for replacement of heavy equipment. Due to the weight limit on the east Thetford Bridge the cost of round trip hauling has increased significantly. This year the highway department had most of the sand and gravel trucked in. This enables the town to save on the wear and tear of heavy equipment.
6. Ms. Brotman opened the floor to public comments. There being none at this time the hearing moved on to discuss the town warrant articles.

The following Town Warrant Articles were voted as listed below:

- **Article 5** (Operating Budget) – Mr. Jones moved to approve Article 5 in the amount of \$2,077,040. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw.
Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.
- **Article 6** (Block Grant) - Mrs. Jones moved to approve Article 6 in the amount of \$83,400. Seconded by Mr. Taylor.
Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.
- **Article 7** (To CRF & Trust Funds) - Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 7 in the amount of \$484,500. Seconded by Mr. Lange.
A brief discussion concerning the Capital Improvement plan and upcoming road issues and concerns followed. Mr. Smith reviewed various increases to the individual Capital Reserve funds.
Motion voted 6 in favor, 2 against (Jones & Strout).
- **Article 8** (Withdrawal from CRF & Trust Funds) - Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 8 in the amount of \$46,000. Seconded by Mr. Lange.
Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.
- **Article 9** (Lease of Roller) – Mr. Jones moved to approve \$18,081. Seconded by Mr. Smith.
Mr. Smith reviewed the road work done involving the roller. Dirt roads are holding up better and people are noticing the difference. The highway department has increased the funding for material in order to replenish some roads so the roller will be more effective.
Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.
- **Article 10** (Paved road repairs) - Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 10 in the amount of \$150,000. Seconded by Mr. Barta.
Ms. MacKenzie reviewed the ongoing projects the town is working on. Goose Pond Road and River Road. River Road has many areas with significant safety issues and these are going to take time and funds to fix. The Roads Committee and Selectboard will be prioritizing these projects and most will be multiyear fixes. Some concerns were noted that this is too much money to be requesting and concerns for tax increases were noted. Followed was a lengthy discussion

concerning the condition of roads, maintenance, up keep and general conditions of the Towns roads.

Motion voted 3 in favor, 4 against (Jones, Lange, Strout & Ragan) with 1 abstention (Smith).

- **Article 11** non-monetary article.
- **Article 12** (Withdrawal from Class V roads rehabilitation CRF) – Mr. Jones moved to approve Article 12 in the amount of \$100,000. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Ms. MacKenzie reported various road areas on River Road that need work. “The Slump” on River road is a new area that is in dire need of repair. The section of the road is blocked off to a one lane road. The board is waiting for the engineering report to be able to make final plans. The various other projects discussed in article 10 will be part of this overall planning and cost associated with this fund. It was mentioned that possibly more funds should be put into this CRF. Some questions about street sweeping were asked and directed to the Selectboard.
Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.
- **Article 13** (Increase the parking lot)-Mr. Smith moved to approve Article 13 in the amount of \$30,000. Seconded by Ms. Glenshaw. The Selectboard has been working with the State of NH on the plan to increase the Park and Ride lot to 29-32 spaces. At completion of the project, the State will still own this lot; the state and the town will share in the maintenance of the lot.
Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.
- **Article 14** (Establish an annual leave Expendable Trust Fund and Withdrawal from it)-Mr. Jones moved to approve Article 14 in the amount of \$7,500. Seconded by Mr. Taylor. This would be a fund to cover employee’s buildup of accrued time. At the present time there is no extra funding in the budget for this. The auditor considers this a deficiency and has stated that the Town is not in compliance with the auditing standards. This would be the first step in making the town compliant.
Motion voted 2 in favor, 6 against (Lange, Glenshaw, Barta, Strout, Ragan and Smith).
- **Article 15** non-monetary article.
- **Article 16** (Appropriate monies to put into Blisters ETF) Mr. Jones moved to approve Article 16 in the amount of \$4,659. This article will only need to be considered if article 15 fails. Ms. Russell review Blisters for Books and how these funds come to the town. This is an “in and out”.
Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.
- **Article 17** (Withdrawal from Cemetery Fund) – Mr. Jones moved to approve Article 17 in the amount of \$13,602. Seconded by Mr. Taylor. Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.
- **Article 18** (Transfer to New Cemetery fund) – Mr. Jones moved to approve Article 18 in the amount of \$900.00. Seconded by Mr. Barta.
Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.
- **Article 19** (Milfoil Grant) – Mr. Ragan moved to approve Article 19 in the amount of \$21,115. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. The state is offering a 25% grant for these expenses (up to \$5,279). This will be a non-lapsing appropriation

per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until December 31st, 2019. This will allow the town to carry over any remaining funds to be used in the future years. A brief review of the successful treatment of last summer took place.

Motion voted unanimously in favor 8-0.

1. The Public Hearing was closed.
2. The Budget Committee signed the MS-27 and MS-737.
3. Upcoming meeting reminders:
 - Little Town meeting March 3rd, 2015 @ 7:00PM
 - School District Meeting March 5th, 2014 @ 7:00PM
 - Town Meeting March 10th, 2015 @ 9:00AM.
4. At 9:10PM Mr. Jones moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Taylor. Voted unanimously in favor.

Sincerely,

Dina Cutting