

Budget Committee
January 12, 2016

Present: Jerry O'Connor, Chairperson; Howie Knight; Denny Miller; Dave Mankus; Bruce Rich; Nancy Spencer Smith; Charlie Edwards; Priscilla Colbath; Lisa Kimball; Carlene Stewart; Steve Brown; Teresa A. Williams, Town Administrator; and Toni Bodah, Secretary.

Also present were: Connie Twombly; and Donna Martin (videographer). Chief Ken Fifield joined the session in progress.

Mr. O'Connor called the posted meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. O'Connor then directed the Committee members to the budget summary provided. Ms. Williams referred to the article to appropriate \$105,000 for the Highway Road Projects capital reserve fund (WA #20). The Board of Selectmen has voted to increase that appropriation to \$155,000. Ms. Williams referred to a delay in receiving/processing invoices from the paving company for work done on White Birch Road. The work was accomplished in August; however, the invoices were not received/processed until December. If we do not increase the 2016 appropriation for the fund, the Highway Manager would have to reprioritize the originally planned projects. The list of planned projects was not readily available. Mr. Edwards referred to the importance of caring for the infrastructure of the Town. Concern was expressed regarding the proposed significant increase. **Mr. Rich moved to recommend the 2016 appropriation request at \$155,000. Mr. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 10-1.**

Ms. Williams referred to the article to establish a capital reserve fund for the purchase and installation of security cameras, etc. The Budget Committee had refrained from voting on this article until the final language was available. Mr. Rich referred to the term "Security Devices" being a rather broad term. Ms. Williams advised that Town Counsel has approved the wording and the Board has voted to recommend the article as written. The Budget Committee does have the option to not recommend the article. The current intention is for security cameras; however, it is possible that some other issue could arise in the future. Mr. Rich suggested that the wording in the budget summary match the wording in the warrant article. **Mr. Knight moved to recommend the article as written. Ms. Colbath seconded the motion, which passed 11-0.**

The operating budget as listed in WA #29 is not affected by the preceding votes.

Ms. Williams referred to the article for the 2nd floor of the Public Safety Building (WA #12). This article appropriates \$400,000 as follows: \$67,000 from the existing capital reserve fund; and \$333,000 from the unassigned fund balance. **Mr. Knight moved to recommend this article as written. Mr. Mankus seconded the motion, which passed 10-1.**

WA #24 would discontinue the capital reserve fund established to construct a salt shed. The Highway Manager has indicated he sees no need for either a curtain or electricity in the shed. **Mr. Miller moved to recommend this article as written. Mr. Knight seconded the motion, which passed 11-0.**

WA #29 lists the operating budget (\$4,611,010) and the default budget (\$4,485,651). **Mr. Knight moved to recommend this article as written. Mr. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 11-0.**

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Reference was made to WA #25, which would establish an expendable trust fund for cemetery maintenance. Mr. Rich advised it would be funded by plot sales. Mr. Knight suggested renaming the fund to avoid confusion with the existing capital reserve fund for cemetery maintenance. Mr. O'Connor noted that the capital reserve fund may eventually be eliminated. **Ms. Colbath moved to recess the meeting until after the public hearing. Mr. Knight seconded the motion, which passed 11-0.** (Time: 6:59p.m.)

Mr. O'Connor opened the public hearing at 7 p.m. Considering the few people in attendance, rather than address each article, Mr. O'Connor asked whether those in attendance had any questions or comments. Ms. Twombly referred to WA #28 and asked to what it refers. Ms. Williams advised this came in late Monday as a petitioned warrant article. About a year ago, a group tried to obtain a permit from the State for a large bingo event and was unable to do so since the Town of Wakefield had not adopted this RSA. She expects the petitioners to be at Deliberative Session to speak to this article.

There being no further questions from the public, Mr. O'Connor closed the public hearing at 7:03 p.m.

Mr. O'Connor called the meeting back to order and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Bodah, Secretary