

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes February 11, 2019

**7:00 pm** Meeting called to order by Board Chair, John Quinlan. Also in attendance were Selectmen Jack Esposito and Kim Roberge. Quinlan opened the Public Hearing on the budget and warrant articles.

Beginning with the operating budget, Quinlan went down each section and asked for questions/comments. Questions came up on these line items:

**#414210 – Town Clerk Salary** John Arico, Budget Committee: I noticed there is a warrant article that also addresses that stipend. There should be money in one or the other, not both.

Quinlan: Remember, this is the Selectmen's budget and that is the sum (\$19,880) is the number being put forward by the Selectboard after review of the Town Clerk's operations. The warrant does not come from the Selectmen; it comes from the Town Clerk.

**#415011 – Office Salaries** Eileen Naber: I read in the Selectmen's minutes that we are going up to 2 full-time people from one and a half, is the Town office going to be open longer? Are you going to 5 days/week? What is the change going to be?

Quinlan: We are considering opening up on Friday, but the main reason we are doing this is that we have a 9-year employee that we want to keep and that means promoting her to full-time.

**#419150 – Master Plan** Bill McKinney, Planning Board: I would like to reduce this line by \$500 making it \$1500.

**#421015 – Pay in lieu of Holiday** John Arico, Budget Committee: The Committee feels that the Police Chief should not be included in that calculation – he is salary.

Quinlan: The Selectmen understand that, but believe the Chief should be raised accordingly along with his subordinates.

Naber: Asked how this works, and was told that if an officer must work a holiday, he would now be entitled to take a day off at a later time, or take the holiday pay for that day. The Chief explained that with the officers earning 4 weeks of vacation each year and 10 holidays, it is a problem trying to schedule coverage for so many days.

Tim Berry, Budget Committee: We also recommend that the holiday time/pay not carry over the end of year.

Chief Furlong: That is fine beginning this year, the accrued through December 31, 2018.

Donald Murphy: Is the budget based on 24-hour coverage?

Chief Furlong: No; 6 AM to midnight.

Kathy Marchocki: Don't we have part-time officers that would help this?

Chief Furlong: Most part-timers cannot work weekdays as they have other full-time jobs.

Esposito: When this first came up, I was not for the Chief getting it, but after a couple of incidents, I have changed my mind.

Zack Jones: Is this 80 hours of just holiday pay and also sick time and vacation time?

Chief Furlong: Yes.

Allyson Miller: Does this go into your pension?

Chief Furlong: Yes, it does.

**#422068 – Rep. & Maint. Ford Expedition** Laurie Brown: Didn't you want to remove the \$1065 from this line?

Chief Wilson: Yes, we will no longer be putting that into service.

**#431263 – State Fuel Shed** Brown reminded the Board that \$2000 was taken out of that line last week, but the DPW Director explained that this year we have 2 vehicles using regular gas now, and we need to reinstate that \$2000. Board agreed to increase the line back up to \$7,000.

**#458320 – Veterans Day/monument** Miller: Can you explain what the \$3000 was spent on last year and what you plan to do with the \$3200 this year?

Wilson: Majority of that was used to clean/spray wash the monument and to purchase 2 strip stones that will go into the brick walkway. We will finish the grading, take up the walkway and put it back when we are done then reseed and re-loam it.

Miller: Will the walkway be changed at all?

Wilson: No, with the exception of adding in the inscription stone that will be in the middle.

Naber: You already have \$3000 waiting for you for grading and seeding from the Trustees of Trust Funds. That is in addition to this money and the \$3000 will be used for bounding the site with shrubbery.

**#461250 – Land View Management** Naber: What is the \$4850 being used for?

Joanne Draghetti: We use it to treat invasive species at all the conservation areas, cutting the fields, brush cutting, and trail maintenance; any kind of land or view management.

**#471100 – Long Term Debt** Anne Dodd: What is the \$75,000 for?

Brown: That is for the fire station and we will be paying for it until 2027.

Brown: The new budget total is **\$2,520,245**.

Quinlan went on to the warrant articles:

**#1 – Election of Town Officers** No questions

**#2 – Lease/Purchase New Fire Truck** Quinlan explained that, because it is over \$100,000 there has to be a Public Hearing posted in the newspaper. The hearing is set for February 25, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

The Budget Committee does not support this article.

The Selectmen do not support this article.

**#3 – By Petition: Town Clerk Salary** Naber: Would that replace the line item in the budget, or would that be an addition to the line item in the budget?

Brown: Someone will have to make the motion on the floor at Town Meeting to zero out the budget line item if this article passes.

Naber: So, if this passed and the budget passed, she would get double?

Brown: Yes

Belinda Yeaton, Town Clerk: I would not ask for double, I would zero it out myself.

Dodd: Why the reduction? Are we seeing less hours, or less work?

Quinlan: After studying the issue, we found that the hours needed to do the work and the budget number proposed didn't support each other. And there is only one election this year.

The Budget Committee does not support this article.

The Selectmen do not support this article.

**#4 – Reconstruction of Carleton Pond and Park** Naber: What is it for?

Draghetti: Because this is one of the wettest summers, the water became extremely hot and also having no shade, the fish died. We will add an aerator to move the water, an electrical box and a telephone pole. Also, the swamp was flooding and infiltrating the pond. The recommendation was for a swale between the pond and swamp that will divert the swamp water to a ditch to the culvert directing the water into the catch basin, under Grand Hill Rd. and off downstream.

Naber: Have any studies been done by a civil engineer to deal with the future?

Quinlan: As the library and cemetery projects progress, there will be an overall plan.

Naber: What would happen if you wait a year?

Draghetti: You would continue to have flooding, and you would have to cancel the fishing derby.

Quinlan: It is up to us to get a comprehensive study done.

Bonnie Angulas: Are you still going to put in a light?

Draghetti: Yes, the light is included in the warrant article money.

The Budget Committee supports this article.

The Selectmen Support this article.

**#5 – Additional Library Site Assessment** Cindy Raspiller: We learned that there a lot more wetlands on the site than we originally thought. Part of the site designated for the library and access road and parking is designated wetland. Part of what this \$25,000 will cover is potential adjustments to the site itself if necessary. Hopefully the State will help us with a plan to mitigate those wetlands instead of having to move the building. There are wetlands up the middle of the open area. Not included in last years work was some very specific engineering costs associated with figuring out the final cost to build the building on that site. There were no test borings nor did they finalize the septic design because they need to dig test pits to see if the site will support a septic. By finalizing the location, it tightens up the cost estimate. There is a group in town that has formed an organization to raise money for this project and the more specific we can be, the more successful they will be. Meridian land services will do most of the work and help us negotiate with the State of NH.

Don Murphy: I don't see the Selectmen's or Budget Committee's recommendation on this article.

Arico, Budget Committee: The Budget Committee is concerned what you just described is all site preparation work; the Budget Committee is concerned over the word "architecture" being in there.

Raspiller: The architecture piece is in case DSK has to adjust the design of the building based on what they learn from the site studies.

Naber: Is there any hope that this article includes a site specific for the road?

Quinlan: Yes, when we know where the road can go, we will have a better idea of where the library can go.

Esposito: We initially supported this article with the provision that the road be included.

Roberge: Cindy, did you have any discussion about including "access road" in the article?

Raspiller: We were trying not to make the article too long and confusing, I don't have an issue with including it.

Roberge: I think it would clarify the article that the road is included. Maybe one less question at Town Meeting.

Raspiller: So, after the words "site selection" we will add: "and location of access road" to the article.

Esposito: I would prefer that wording be in there.

Draghetti: How far is the road going up?

Quinlan: To the top of the cemetery property. There might be a small access off from Carriage Circle.

The Budget Committee does not support this article.

The Selectmen support this article.

**#6 – Library Capital Reserve** No questions. Quinlan explained that the Daland Trustees will match this \$10,000.

The Budget Committee supports this article.

The Selectmen Support this article.

**#7 – Rep & Maint. - Town Buildings** Arico, Budget Committee: Without a specific plan, the Budget Committee will only support \$25,000.

Quinlan: We have a lot of projects going on; Long-term we will be renovating the McCollom and Town Hall, but there are things we need to accomplish right now. The windows in the McCollom building will be done this year, there is chimney work to be done and the flooring in the basement may need attention. In the Town Hall, this room needs to be repaired and refurbished. These things need to happen now. We don't have clean estimates for all of them right now, but we believe the \$50,000 will get us through all of the projects.

Esposito: In the past we were putting \$40,000/year specific to the McCollom Building. This is a general article for use on any of the Town Buildings and presently we have enough money in the McCollom fund that with this \$50,000 we will be able to get it all done this summer.

Arico: In the past, the Budget Committee had supported those \$40,000 articles because they were based on a plan that came out of the energy audit, we are concerned about unconstrained spending. We would like to have a plan for all that money.

Quinlan: There actually is a plan; do we have hard estimates for all of the work, no, but we do have a plan.

The Budget Committee does not support this article.

The Selectmen support this article.

**#8 – Fire Truck Capital Reserve** Chief Wilson: If the fire truck article passes, this article would be withdrawn.

Arico, Budget Committee: The Budget Committee recommends reducing this article to \$40,000.

Amy Wyman: How much money is currently in the Fire Truck Capital Reserve?

Naber: \$76,000.

The Budget Committee does not support this article.

The Selectmen do not support this article.

**#9 – Highway Block Grant** Quinlan: This is money from the State.

Angulas: Do you know which roads you will do this year?

Quinlan: We do have a plan; Ben and I rode all the roads and we do have a plan.

Esposito: Last year we spent a considerable amount of money on the road work that we did. We always try to save a year of Block Grant Money in case of emergency. We dipped into that a bit last year, and will make up for it this year. We will do about \$100,000 of work this coming year.

Quinlan: We did Kendall Hill and Kittredge last year, they were big projects and Kendall Hill went a bit above what we had planned.

Looking to do several smaller projects this year.

The Budget Committee supports this article.

The Selectmen Support this article.

**#10 – Operating Budget** Draghetti: If everything passes, do we have any idea of what our taxes would go up?

Quinlan: We don't do speculation on this. The operating budget is the base plan for the Town, the warrant articles are the options.

Esposito: Last year there was a \$105,000 article to buy the library building that won't be there this year.

Roberge: Jack's point is very well taken; in that it gets taken out of context every year. Unless you look at the budget and warrant articles were last year and compare to this year, you aren't getting apples to apples.

Dodd: The school articles will show the tax impact for every article – I advise you to put that in here so people will know what they are dealing with. Be very up-front with people so they can understand what they are voting for.

Esposito: You are asking us to put the tax impact on each warrant article?

Brown: That has to be a warrant article.

Esposito: We can say it verbally, though.

Dodd: That would be great – just a handout that says it because it will be on the school warrant this year.

Esposito: Another thing you have to realize is that last year we received over \$100,000 worth of unanticipated current use income that we won't be getting again, and a nice return from the school that allowed us to buy back about \$2.00 on the tax rate.

Murphy: There are 199 towns in the state of NH and only 1 town spends more money per students than we do.

I don't know how we are going to get a handle on that budget. The Budget Committee does a fantastic job and the Selectmen do a fantastic job, but somehow down the road we will be number 1.

Roberge: The School board was not able to get any member of this town to be a member of their budget committee.

Quinlan introduced Kat McGhee, NH State Representative to the audience.

McGhee: You are talking about the schools; there are a number of bills in Concord regarding adequate funding for schools. Even though Claremont won their lawsuit, their funding did not increase. There are a lot of towns that are struggling to keep from closing schools.

The Budget Committee supports this article.

The Selectmen have not weighed in on this article yet.

**#11 – Act Upon Reports**

**#12 – Other**

**8:15 pm Quinlan closed the Public Hearing.**