

**Minutes of the public pre-warrant budget hearing held on the evening of Friday, February 16, 2017 at the Richmond Veteran's Hall, Old Homestead Highway, Richmond, NH.**

The meeting opened at 7:04. The Selectmen present: Carol Jameson and William Daniels. Also present: Susan Harrington, Administrative Assistant. Jameson chaired the meeting and Harrington acted as secretary.

The following hand-outs in hard copy were available to the public:

Report from the Board of Selectmen  
Draft 2017 Warrant  
Powerpoint presentation of the Budget and Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Selectman Jameson welcomed those in attendance and thanked the volunteers for setting up. With great regret, Selectman Jameson announced that Heidi Wood, the Town Administrator has resigned as of February 9, 2018. And in addition, thanked employees who have helped out in her absence.

Jameson opened meeting with a PowerPoint presentation of the 2018 Pre-Warrant.

**Special Warrant Articles:**

Article 2: To change the purpose of the Expendable General Trust Fund, Highway Vehicle and Equipment Fund to include **repairing and maintaining** highway vehicles and maintenance equipment in addition to purchasing highway vehicles and maintenance. A question was raised to whether this should be a Trust Fund or in the Operating Budget, determining what would be paid with Trust vs Operation Budget, Major vs Minor expenses. Article remains as stated.

Article 3. Raise and appropriate \$10,000 for Library repairs and painting. This is a non-lapsing appropriation and will not lapse until the work is completed or March 31, 2020, whichever comes first. Questions/Comments raised were; Were there different quotes received? Yes. If work is not completed in time, the \$10,000 would default to the General Fund.

Article 4. Raise and appropriate \$7500 for cutting, stumping trees on Earl Howard Cemetery. Non-lapsing appropriation that will not lapse until the work is completed or March 31, 2020. Questions/Comments raised; Road frontage? 1,027 ft.

Article 5. Raise and appropriate \$123,000 for road upgrade. Fish Hatchery. Questions/Comments raised; use of culverts, and if road would be completed in the same manner as Sandy Pond Road.

Article 6. Raise and appropriate \$15,000 for parking lot and plantings at Town Lot known as Four Corners. Questions/Comments raised were; Parking at 4 Corners Lot vs Emergency Vehicle Lot(Amidon Park), and advertise differently to sell lot.

## **Operating Budget:**

Article 7. Raise and appropriate \$291,528 for General Government. Questions/Comments raised; \$12,000 less than last year for buildings.

Article 8. Raise and appropriate \$1,533 for increasing annual stipend for Town Clerk. Questions/Comments raised; How many hours? 20-23.

Article 9. Raise and appropriate \$199,825 for Public Safety. Questions/Comments raised; Emergency Management Budget decreased due to closure of Vermont Yankee.

Article 10. Raise and appropriate \$23,487 for Full Time Police Officer. Questions/Comments raised; Officer in Charge, Lt. Andrew Wood spoke about the increase in activity, difficult to find part time staffing. Retirement package is not an option, is required.

Article 11. Raise and appropriate \$199,825 for Public Safety. Questions/Comments raised; Emergency Management Budget decreased due to closure of Vermont Yankee.

Article 12. Raise and appropriate \$14,326 for Health and Welfare. No Questions/Comments raised.

Article 13. Raise and appropriate \$44,725 for Culture and Recreation. No Questions/Comments raised.

Article 14. Raise and appropriate \$50,650 for Debt Services. Questions/Comments raised; Final payment for Fay Martin Road upgrade? Yes.

Article 15. Raise and appropriate \$20,000 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund known as the Road Reconstruction and Road Maintenance Fund. No Questions/Comments raised.

Article 16. Raise and appropriate \$10,000 to add to the Expendable Trust known as the Municipal Buildings Maintenance Fund. No Questions/Comments raised.

Article 17. Raise and appropriate \$50,000 to add to the Capital Reserve Fund known as the Bridge Improvement Fund. Questions/Comments raised; Why raise funds in two different places? Cannot anticipate funds. Town must have 20 percent to get on the list for state aid.

Article 18. Raise and appropriate \$8,000 to add to the Property Revaluation Fund. No Questions/Comments raised.

Article 19. Raise and appropriate \$20,000 to add to the Capital Reserve Fund, known as the Fire Truck Fund. No Questions/Comments raised.

Article 20. Raise and appropriate \$5,000 to add to the Highway Vehicle and Equipment Fund. No Questions/Comments raised.

Article 21. Raise and appropriate \$10,000 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund known as the Police Vehicle Fund. No Questions/Comments raised.

Article 22. Raise and appropriate \$10,000 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund known as the Public Safety Radio Communication Equipment Fund. No Questions/Comments raised.

Article 23. Raise and appropriate \$3,000 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund known as the Police Safety Equipment Fund. No Questions/Comments raised.

Article 24. By Petition to express support to Governor Sununu for New Hampshire to join Massachusetts and Maine for the feasibility study of Offshore Wind Power. No Questions/Comments raised.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

