



Town of Richmond

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WD

February 09, 2022

Minutes of 2022 Pre-Warrant Hearing

Selectmen present: William Daniels, Douglas Bersaw, and Andrew Wallace

Handouts were available and are attached with minutes

Meeting opened at 7:02 p.m.

After Chairman Daniels welcomed residents; the 2022 Pre-Warrant Hearing began with a Power Point presentation of the 2022 Warrant and Budget beginning with Article 3. Articles 1 and 2 will be on the ballot to vote on at the Town Election being held on March 08, 2022.

Warrant Article 03. To raise and appropriate \$2,000,000 with 80 % to come from the State of New Hampshire and the 20 % balance to be paid by the Town of Richmond and furthermore to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a bond agreement to borrow up to \$2,000,000 until the reimbursement from the State of New Hampshire is received. Recommended by the Selectmen.

3/5 vote required. Article 3 was read and reviewed; the following comments and/or questions were received:

A question was raised about the location of the Tully Brook Bridge, Board explained location. Board explained it is a culvert but the State of N.H. considers any culvert more than 10 feet a bridge.

Warrant Article 4 was read. No questions or concerns.

Warrant Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$279,284 for Town Administration. Recommended by the Selectmen.

A question was asked regarding a \$9,600 increase in the 2022 Cemetery Budget. Board explained increase was due to cutting trees, repairing gravestones, lawn care, etc. Wallace also pointed out the current price of fuel and its impact to the budgets.

Article 6 was read. No questions or concerns.

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 100,251 for Ambulance, Fire and Rescue, and Emergency Management. Recommended by the Selectmen. Regarding Ambulance Services, currently we are in a contract with Diluzio ambulance until July 2022. We have been made aware that Diluzio Ambulance Services might not be around much longer and Cheshire County would take over for Diluzio. The County cannot take over full time yet, it has been discussed to contract with Fitzwilliam and Troy. Contracting with Fitzwilliam/Troy would give Richmond coverage 24/7. In an effort to financially prepare for a possible change in ambulance services, we have created Article 16. Please see Article 16 for further details.

Articles 8-14 were read. No questions or concerns.

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Municipal Buildings Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Recommended by the Selectmen.

Selectman Wallace commented on Article 15. This is the start of a garage for the Highway Department, we have funds in the Municipal Buildings Fund. Road Agent Buddy Blood is providing the specs. We intend to start to draw from funds in 2022.

Article 16. To raise and appropriate \$65,000 for Ambulance Services. Recommended by the Selectmen.

This amount is being raised as our portion of Ambulance Services from July to December 2022 IF Diluzio Ambulance Services goes out of business. The \$65,000 will cover services to Richmond from the Fitzwilliam/Troy ambulance service. We will compare the costs again once the County is up and running.

Article 17. To authorize the Richmond Board of Selectmen to obtain a lease to expire May 24, 2028. To raise and appropriate \$24,000 for the first-year lease on a John Deere 544 Loader for the Highway Department. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Questions and Comments were, but not limited to: The Board started a 1-year lease in 2021 to obtain a John Deere 544 Loader for the Highway Department. It is an important piece of equipment. The money will be built into the Highway Operating Budget in the future. This article authorizes the lease contract. A question was raised if this was a fixed payment? The Board answered yes. A question was asked if the Loader was new. The Board answered yes.

Article 18 and 19 were read. No questions or concerns were raised.

Daniels address audience if there were any questions or comments. Bersaw stated the departments were keeping their budgets tight. A question was asked about raises. Daniels answered yes, Wendy O'Brien the girls in the office did. It was mentioned that Road Agent Buddy Blood gets reimbursed for his mileage and cell phone. Mr. Laplante from Whipple Hill Road let the audience know that he is running for State Senate.

No further questions or comments.

Daniels made a motion to close the Hearing, 2nd by Wallace.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm

Attachments: Power Point presentation of 2022 Warrant

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Harrington
Town Administrator