



Town of Richmond

105 Old Homestead Highway Richmond, NH 03470

P: (603) 239-4232 F: (603)239-9994

www.richmond.nh.gov

February 7, 2019

Minutes of 2019 Pre-Warrant Hearing

Selectmen present: William Daniels, Carol Jameson and Douglas Bersaw

Handouts were available and are attached with minutes

Meeting opened at 7:03 p.m.

After Chairman Daniels welcomed residents; the 2019 Pre-Warrant Hearing began with a Power Point presentation of the 2019 Warrant.

Warrant Article 2-Special Warrant Article Earl Howard Cemetery. Comments, questions and responses included but were not limited to the following: Will stumps be removed? Answer: Yes.

Warrant Article 3-Special Warrant Article road upgrade. P. Goodell, K. Mattson, T. Morin spoke to this article. Comments, questions and responses included but were not limited to the following: who is helping with the reconstruction, where does the paving end, too many pot holes.

Selectmen response: Mitchel Paving is working with the Richmond Road Crew. Paving ends approximately 100 yards from Benson Road. The culverts are in, trees and brush removed; the requested \$170,000 is for prep and paving the remainder of Fish Hatchery Road.

Warrant Article 4-Town Administration 2019 Operating Budget. R. Drew, C. Daugherty spoke to this article. Comments, questions and responses included but were not limited to the following: Legal and Government Building increases.

Selectmen's response: Executive budget increase in the amount of \$3,500 for Selectmen salary increase. Legal Budget has an increase of \$10,000 due to ongoing Zoning Compliance Violations and PSNH suit.

B. Coll spoke to increase in the Cemetery Budget of \$500.

Warrant Article 5-Public Safety 2019 Operating Budget. C. Daugherty, K. Mattson, A. Tokunaga, B. Heise, A. Wood, L. Davis, N. Jette, M. Taylor, and residents that did not state their name spoke to this article. Comments, questions and responses included but were not limited to the following: budget decrease, separate warrant article addressing the dissolution of the Richmond Police Department, patrol hours, coverage for patrol and administration.

Selectmen's response: The figure of \$98,047 for police is based on 6 months of proposed 2019 Richmond Police Budget and 6 months of Sheriff Department Budget, if the Town votes to approve the warrant article amount. Requests were made to include the requested 2019 Richmond Police Department Budget for the residents to review in a 2nd Pre-Warrant Hearing which is scheduled for

February 14th at 7:00 pm. Selectmen responded that NH law limits the text that may be included in a warrant article but that they would look to add explanatory text in another way. The hand out that was previously available at the Public Forum held on January 10, 2019 was provided and is attached to these minutes. Please see attachment. Lt. Wood (a non-resident) was given permission to speak and challenged the content of the hand out. Considerable discussion followed about the nature of the hours of coverage provided by the Richmond Police Department and as proposed to be provided by the Sheriff's Department.

In addition to Warrant Article 5-Public Safety. Comments, questions and responses included but were not limited to the following: Funds from Vermont Yankee into the Emergency Management operating budget?

Selectmen's response: They will verify with Emergency Management.

Warrant Article 6-Highway, Streets and Sanitation 2-19 Operating Budget. P. Goodell, K. Mattson spoke to this article. Comments, questions and responses included but were not limited to the following: funds from operating budget being spent on Lang Road, money for gravel and stone, parking at the Veteran's Memorial Hall specifically that Town Meeting-residents were parking along road and at the Town Hall.

Selectmen's response: Some funds were figured into the Road Agent's 2019 operating budget will be for Lang Road. No specific time has been set for the completion of the Veteran's Memorial Hall parking lot at this time, limited parking available for Town Meeting was acknowledged.

Warrant Article 7-Health and Welfare 2019 Operating Budget—Increase of \$ 200.00 in Health Administration is due to training. The Town of Richmond and the Town of Fitzwilliam share the same Health Officer therefore the training fee alternates every other year. The increase in Health Agencies, Hospitals and Other is contingent on Richmond Resident's usage of these resources. The agencies such as Hundred Nights, The Community Kitchen, to name a few, provide the town each year with a breakdown of services used by Richmond Residents and an approximate monetary amount requested to help provide these services.

Warrant Article 8-Culture and Recreation. An increase of \$1,000 to the Parks and Recreation Budget was requested by E. Moriarty to cover expense for our issue with the ducks at the beach.

Warrant Article 9-Debt Services. Typo in year of approved budget-showing as 2017 should be 2018, and requested budget-showing as 2018, should be 2019.

Capital Reserve Fund Warrant Articles

Warrant Articles-10 through 16. No discussion.

Warrant Article 17-Typo-remove the "(" between "Fund" and "proposed".

Warrant Article 18-Typo-remove the "[" and "]".

Warrant Articles 19 and 20-no discussion.

Warrant Article 21. To abolish the Heritage Commission. The Heritage Commission and the Richmond Historical Society consist of the same members, who wish to act as the Richmond Historical Society only. Selectmen will check with the New Hampshire Department of Revenue to verify if this Warrant Article needs to be on the ballot since it is considered a Land Use Commission. The warrant article will be deleted if the action requires a ballot procedure in a future year. The Heritage Commission intends to become inactive after year-end, and the projects will continue under the auspices of the Historical Society whether or not the Commission is abolished.

Warrant Articles 22 and 23. No discussion.

Before closing the Pre-Warrant Hearing the Selectmen announced that a 2nd Pre-Warrant will be held on February 14th at 7:00 pm at the Veteran's Memorial Hall where the following concerns will be addressed: Separate Warrant Article for Police Department, Police Department's 2019 requested budget, typos corrected, the abolishment of the Heritage Commission.

Hearing adjourned at 8:54 pm

Attachments: Police Forum Handout, Highlights of the Budget, Power Point presentation, Housekeeping Changes in Capital Reserves/Expendable Trust Funds.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Harrington

Town Administrator