

Call to Order

Chairman Stumpf called the meeting to order at 8:40 p.m. in the small room of the Library. In attendance were S. Jon Stumpf, Linn Anderson, Margaret (Peggy) Kruse, Eugenie (Janie) Moffitt and Joanne Marden. Absent was Greg Serrao, Bojay Taylor and Bonne Zahorik. The meeting was audiotaped but not live cablecast.

Town Yard

Discussion continued from the Selectmen's meeting on the Town Yard. RFP's for a \$17.5M project have gone out to developers and a site visit is planned on March 30th. Mr. Barry expressed concern about the "unintended consequences" of the move to Campanelli Drive. Will services be enhanced and what are the ongoing, contingency and overall costs.

Ms. Kruse will follow up with Municipal Services using the CIP evaluation form to gain answers to the above questions. Redoing of the intersection was also an issue to be addressed as part of the development. Also raised was the impact of this development on the increase in demand for public services and the possible need for property tax increases to pay for them.

It was agreed that the design services of \$900K should be taken out of Article 5 and listed separately as a warrant article (P-43), along with P-44 Acquisition of 5 Campanelli Drive and P-45 Home Rule Legislation – Municipal Services Facility Mitigation Fund. Peggy also will find out the difference in debt service terms on property taxes of 20, 25 and 30 years, although it was noted that the latter is the least of the borrowing options.

Approval of Warrant Articles

Article P-3 Salaries of Elected Officials

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Kruse and seconded by Ms. Anderson, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article P-3. Motion passed 6-0.

Article P-11 General Housekeeping

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Marden and seconded by Ms. Moffitt, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article P-11, Sections A, B, D, E and F. Motion passed 6-0.

Article P-12 Granting Easements

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Kruse and seconded by Mr. Barry, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article P-12. Motion passed 6-0.

Article P-13 Jerry Silverman Fireworks

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Barry, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article P-13 in the amount of \$14,000. Motion passed 6-0.

Article P-16 FY2017 Revolving Accounts

It was agreed to hold on this article pending information from Ms. Walsh.

Article P-17 Elderly/Disabled Transportation Program

It was agreed to hold on this article pending FY2016 budget actual information from Ms. Walsh.

Article P-18 Support for Civic Events

It was agreed to hold on this article pending FY2016 budget actual information from Ms. Walsh.

Article P-19 Spring Grove Cemetery Maintenance

It was agreed to hold on this article pending FY2016 budget actual information from Ms. Walsh.

Update on Chairs' Weekly Meeting

Mr. Stumpf reported that the chairs had fifteen meetings thus far. Closing the school budget gap was a continuing topic of discussion. The suggestion was made that the savings from health insurance of \$500K and circuit breaker funds of \$500K would bring the amount down from \$1.8M to \$.8M. Discussion ensued about the concern members had with the assumptions being made in closing the gap. Suggestion was made that instead of applying the health savings to the school budget, it be applied to increase funding to the OPEB trust fund. Mr. Stumpf stated that these were topics of ongoing discussion only as recommendations of possible solutions, but would share that these were concerns of the Committee.

Other points of discussion were the impact on the budget of: a) the negative impact of spending down the special ed reserve; b) not using the fund for its intended purposes; c) the savings realized from replacing retired teachers with new hires on a lower step and grade and accurate budgeting for same; d) the usefulness of historical detailed information available in the past of anticipated retirement information, both budget and actual; e) ELL class size; f) accurate funding of sped; g) accurate appropriations for technology; and h) budgeting for books as CIP items.

The Superintendent and Mr. Blumstein are expected to come before the Committee on Wednesday, March 23rd.

Financial Report

Ms. Anderson suggested that Mr. Stumpf submit the first draft of the transmittal letter to Christine for distribution to the members. Discussion ensued on the points of consideration and one was true compensation. Ms. Anderson pointed out that members should check the wording of the warrant articles and make suggested changes.

Other

Ms. Marden reported that on Wednesday, she should would have more information on the status of the TIF Agreement with Pfizer.

Ms. Anderson pointed out that members should check the wording of the warrant articles in order to make suggested changes in time.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, March 16th

Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Barry, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford
Recording Secretary