

### Call to Order

Chairman Stumpf called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room. The meeting was live cablecast.

### Remote Participation Requirements and Procedures

Per 940 CMR 29.10(7), John Barry contacted the Chair in sufficient time prior to the meeting with the request to participate in the meeting remotely due to geographic unavailability. Pursuant to 940 CMR 29.10(5), Chair so notified the members of Mr. Barry's request, gained their approval, and initiated roll call. In attendance were S. Jon Stumpf-Y, Margaret (Peggy) Kruse-Y, John Barry, Jr.-Y, Joanne Marden-Y, Bojay Taylor-Y and Bonnie Zahorik-Y (arrived late.) Absent were Greg Serrao, Linn Anderson and Eugenie (Janie) Moffitt.

Mr. Stumpf asked Christine to follow the Board of Selectmen on stream and when the time came for a vote on OPEB, the Committee would adjourn to that meeting.

### Warrant Articles

Mr. Stumpf reviewed the following warrant articles: Articles 1 and 2-NP; Article 4- pending following Board of Selectmen meeting; 6-hold; 7-NP; 10-NP; 48-NP; 46-NP; 51, 52-NP; 43-NP; 53-NP; 47-NP; 58-NP.

Ms. Kruse will get the updated information from Ed Ataide as to life expectancy of materials etc. on Article 33, Lovely Field Turf Replacement.

Article 54 Contract Scoring will be presented by someone designated by Mr. Pokress as he will be out of the country.

### Article 59 Limited Tax Relief for Certain Elder Citizens

Mr. Roli addressed the Committee and made the following points:

- a) Town's tax rate applies to all taxpayers, including those in this program.
- b) Program works the same as current SCRPT program;
- c) February 28, 2017 deadline for application; reapplication required each year.
- d) \$75K exemption on maximum \$600K assessed residence, taxpayer for at least 20 consecutive years;
- e) 70 years of age or older with income for head of household \$71K; \$85 for family of 2.
- f) 2012 Census revealed 436 single family homes under \$600K, with a resident 70 years of age or older.
- g) If every home qualified, the cost would be \$485K; \$1,125/per household; \$33.89 tax rate; \$8.50 per quarter cost to remaining taxpayers.
- h) Sudbury's program for past 3 years had 101 participants costing the town \$330K.
- i) Anticipated/projected number of Andover's participants would be 202.
- j) This bill still in legislation.
- k) When a senior sells a home, that home is bought by families with children requiring services.
- l) Seniors received no COLA this year but taxes increased 3.8%.

Ms. Marden pointed out that if the program is handled as an abatement, the assessor would need to budget for that in the overlay, resulting in less money in the operating budget for town and school services. She also pointed out that there are other groups of residents struggling to pay taxes with incomes well below the income level mentioned above. Ms. Zahorik pointed out that the Board of Selectmen after two years

could vote to discontinue the program. Discussion ensued on this article and it was decided that, after consulting with Ms. Walsh on the administrative costs of the program, to consider revoting on Wednesday.

### **Chairs Meeting**

Mr. Stumpf reported that the Town Manager and the Superintendent have come to an agreed upon budget: \$76,099,203. Town Manager has increased by \$100K revenue projections, local receipts, and \$ 252,971 as a result of Chapter 70 increase in state aid and lower assessments; and new growth \$147,029. Mr. Stumpf added that three sources of revenue, local receipts, state aid and taxes go into the same available “bucket” in order to protect against downturn years. Discussion ensued on the 4.59% increase and the unsustainability of this trend. The Committee was encouraged by the collaborative way in which the Town Manager and Superintendent were working together and a more reasonable approach and strategic planning of the budget. It was agreed to vote on this following Dr. Berman’s appearance before the Committee on Wednesday.

### **Fincomm Report**

Ms. Kruse noted that she was in support of a software design program that would facilitate the production of the Fincomm Report. Christine will follow with Ms. Walsh on the purchase of same by the end of the fiscal year.

### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting is Wednesday, April 27th. By that time Mr. Stumpf will have talked with the Clerk about Articles 47 and 53 and Ms. Kruse will get information on Article 30; also Mr. Pokress’ amendment and Mr. Roli’s article will be reviewed, as well as OPEB and school department budget.

### **Adjournment**

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Marden and seconded by Ms. Zahorik, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. S. Jon Stumpf-Y, Margaret (Peggy)-Y, John Barry, Jr.-Y, Joanne Marden-Y, Bojay Taylor-Y and Bonnie Zahorik-Y. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford  
Recording Secretary