

Call to Order

Chair Moffitt called the meeting to order at 7:09p.m. Through video conferencing mode, present were Chairperson Eugenie Moffitt, Paul Russo, Andrew Betts, Spiro Christopoulos, Linn Anderson, Mary Ellen Logee, John Barry, Paul Monticciolo and Bojay Taylor. Also present were the Town Manager, Austin Simko, Town Clerk, Donna Walsh, Finance Director, Paul Materazzo, Planning Director and Patrick Lawlor, Assistant Town Manager (arrived late.) The meeting was videotaped and live cablecast.

Votes on Warrant Articles

Article 7 – Budget Transfers

Ms. Walsh stated that typically this article is voted at Town Meeting. Therefore, voting will be deferred until just before Town Meeting.

Article 8 – Supplemental Budget Appropriation

Ms. Walsh reiterated her statement above and allowed that at the present moment the following is being considered: \$220K for snow and ice from Free Cash and \$230K for solid waste from Free Cash. She anticipates both numbers would be subject to change. Mr. Flanagan stated that solid waste is anticipated at 30% higher than last year due to COVID-19. Therefore, voting will be deferred until Town Meeting.

Article 12 – Unexpended Appropriations Capital Projects Fund

Ms. Walsh reiterated her statement above and allowed that at the present moment between \$50-80K is anticipated flowing into Free Cash. Therefore, voting will be deferred until Town Meeting.

Article 19 – School Department Revolving Fund

Mr. Russo stated this article establishes revolving account for professional development activities with participants from other towns and monies deposited into the revolving account. Ms. Walsh stated that a specified not to exceed amount needs to be designated. Mr. Russo will follow up. Voting is placed on hold.

Article 20 – Sale of Town Yard Property and Portion of Lewis Street

Article 21 – Discontinuance of a Portion of Lewis Street as a Public Way

Article 22 – Taking by Eminent Doman of Town Yard Property and Discontinued Portion f Lewis Street

Mr. Flanagan reviewed the history of article 20 at prior Town Meetings and the committee's vote in support, as well as the financial impact of not going forward with this article, including the high cost of insuring the property as an abandoned site.

Following discussion and upon motion duly made by Ms. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Barry, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Articles 20, 21 and 22 as written in the warrant. Chair Eugenie (Janie) Moffitt-Y, Linn Anderson-Y, Paul Russo-Y, Andrew Betts-Y, Mary Ellen Logee-Y, John Barry-Y, Bojay Taylor-Y, Spiro Christopoulos-Y and Paul Monticciolo-Y. Motion passed 9-0.

Article 40 – Acquisition of 65 River Road

Mr. Flanagan suggested putting on hold this article until the next meeting.

Article 41 – Acceptance of General Law Provision to Consolidate Maintenance Function of Schools and Towns

Mr. Flanagan reviewed the history of the custodial arrangement and that this was the first step in developing a future reorganization of these services to be under the purview of Plant and Facilities entirely.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Barry, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article 41 as written in the warrant. Chair Eugenie (Janie) Moffitt-Y, Linn Anderson-Y, Paul Russo-Y, Andrew Betts-Y, Mary Ellen Logee-Y, John Barry-Y, Bojay Taylor-Y, Spiro Christopoulos-Y and Paul Monticciolo-Y. Motion passed 9-0.

Finance Committee Report and Letter

Ms. Anderson reviewed the newly created dropbox. She also reviewed the draft report and letter, which was a work in progress. She asked for the committee's feedback. Mr. Flanagan reported the warrant will be signed (with an anticipated additional warrant) no later than April 20 and at that time a new date for town meeting is determined most likely to be sometime in June. Discussion ensued on the various supporting pages in the report yet to be completed. Plans were made on developing remote communication methods in the next several weeks.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Approval of Minutes – March 18, 2020

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Moffitt, it was unanimously voted to approve above minutes. Chair Eugenie (Janie) Moffitt-Y, Linn Anderson-Y, Paul Russo-Y, Andrew Betts-Y, Mary Ellen Logee-Y, John Barry-Y, Bojay Taylor-Y, Spiro Christopoulos-Y and Paul Monticciolo-Y. Motion passed 9-0.

Other Business

The committee expressed appreciation for management's response to the health crisis and keeping residents informed via website. Mr. Flanagan noted that the financial impact will be ongoing and will be closely monitored. Although the market for municipal bonds is precarious at this time, the market is expected to come back in the future. The article under consideration however is just to file a home rule petition with the state as a first step.

Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Christopulos and seconded by Mr. Barry, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. Chair Eugenie (Janie) Moffitt-Y, Linn Anderson-Y, Paul Russo-Y, Andrew Betts-Y, Mary Ellen Logee-Y, John Barry-Y, Bojay Taylor-Y, Spiro Christopulos-Y and Paul Monticciolo-Y. Motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:09PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford
Recording Secretary

Attachments:
Minutes of March 18, 2020