



Special Town Meeting

August 21, 2018

A Special Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, August 21, 2018 in the Richard H. Smith Town Hall Conference Room. The meeting was attended by First Selectman Angus McDonald, Selectman Duane Gates and Assistant Town Clerk Joyce Berardis. Also in attendance were Kate Cryder, George Eckenroth, Alfred (Al) Starr, Jonathan Kastner, Lori Guerette, Al Guerette, Rich Balducci and Carmela Balducci.

First Selectman Angus McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Lori Guerette made a motion to appoint Duane Gates as moderator which was seconded by Rich Balducci. The motion was approved unanimously. Duane Gates appointed Joyce Berardis to act as clerk of the meeting who then read the call.

A motion to accept the call as read was made by Lori Guerette and seconded by Carmela Balducci. The motion was approved.

Motion to approve Item #1 was made by Rich Balducci and seconded by Lori Guerette.

To revise 2018-2019 budget to accurately reflect intended revenue and expense of \$525,000 regarding Highway Department Capital purchases and Elementary School roof repair.

Discussion: George Eckenroth came forward to speak. George Eckenroth explained that during the budget process the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen went to the Town with the intent that the Town would have the authority to spend up to \$325,000 to purchase up to two (2) trucks and that the Town would put a new roof on the elementary school for up to approximately \$200,000. George Eckenroth explained the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen assumed the Town would borrow the funds and it would make a first payment of that borrowing in the budget. That was the intent that was stated to the Town. George Eckenroth went on to explain the Board of Finance did not put into the new budget the

purchase of the new trucks and the expenditure for the school or the recognition of the new debt. This special Town Meeting reflects the intent of the budget. It creates a new line item to purchase the new trucks, it expands the authorization in the elementary school capital which is now \$240,000 to reflect the intended expenditures in the budget for the roof and it recognizes miscellaneous revenues with a new borrowing of \$525,000. George Eckenroth further explained that this change will not increase the tax revenue the citizens provide the Town; it just gives the Town the authority to make these expenditures and the accountants the ability to recognize them properly. Lori Guerette added that this is not a change to how the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen prepare the budget; rather, it is a change to how it is put on paper.

Rich Balducci asked if the Town was only purchasing two (2) vehicles and First Selectman Angus McDonald responded yes. Rich Balducci stated that this will be bonded out and asked if the Town knew what the rate would be. First Selectman Angus McDonald said the last rate he obtained was 5% but the Town won't necessarily need to borrow money. First Selectman Angus McDonald stated the Town already has \$144,000 in the budget that will cover almost all of the first plow truck and the Town may have enough to cover the rest. The roof will not be done in this fiscal year so the Town won't have to borrow that. The roof repair will go out to bid during this year and it will be ready to go for next July, the next fiscal year.

Carmela Balducci asked if the money that would have been borrowed for the truck is coming out of monies already in the budget. First Selectman Angus McDonald responded the money will not be borrowed. Carmela Balducci asked what happens to the pocket of money that was to be used on the roof. First Selectman Angus McDonald stated that the original sum of \$525,000 was to be borrowed which the Town is not doing. The Town is not going to spend \$525,000; it looks as if the Town is going to spend around \$250,000, of which \$144,000 is already in the budget. Because this budget was completed prior to the State budget and the final state budget contribution is more than was expected, the Town will have a surplus. Once the budget is reconciled, the Town will know whether it will use surplus or unallocated funds.

Rich Balducci stated next year will be a problem as the State is looking at a \$2.4 billion deficit. First Selectman Angus McDonald responded that that is all the more reason not to incur additional debt or go into the unallocated funds if it's possible.

Lori Guerette asked if there are any parts of the Elementary School roof that need to be repaired. First Selectman Angus McDonald responded that the Town just got a bid on a small section of the roof that needs to be repaired. The Town may have to repair the roof in patches depending on

the budget. First Selectman Angus McDonald states the roof isn't falling apart but it is at the end of its age.

Al Guerette asked if money is already approved in the budget to borrow for the roof, wouldn't it be better to get the contractor ready to go as soon as school is done, so the contractor can start working before the next fiscal year starts? First Selectman Angus McDonald stated that is what the Town is working towards.

There being no further discussion, a voice vote was held. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Motion was made by Carmela Balducci and seconded by Rich Balducci to adjourn. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM.

ATTEST: Joyce Berardis, Assistant Town Clerk