

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING & MEETING
January 14, 2014
MINUTES**

Call to Order:

6:00pm Chairman Kevin Verville called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Verville asked all to rise and pledge allegiance to the Flag.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Roll Call:

Present: Kevin Verville, Chairman; Jim Spillane, Vice Chair; David Carbone, Don Daley, Carol Levesque, Fred McGarry, Jeff Shute and Bill von Hassel Members; Maryann Clark, School Board Rep; Steve Barry, Select Board Rep

Excused: Harriet Cady, Member

Public Hearing

Chairman Verville recessed the MBC Meeting and opened a Public Hearing to receive public input on the proposed Municipal and School budgets. Deb Boisvert encouraged the Committee to reconsider its vote on the Warrant Article to establish a Technology Trust fund. She spoke that the School's phone system is due to be replaced and that when it does fail it will do so without notice. The cost to replace the system is estimated to be between \$35,000 and \$50,000. She added that the wording on the Article was changed to remove "purchase" and include "up to" the amount of \$10,000. Vice Chairman Spillane spoke that, given the change in language, he will now vote in support of the Article.

Selectman Barry read through the eight proposed Town Warrant Articles for the Committee. Nancy Shute asked whether the MBC has taken a formal vote on the Articles, Chairman Verville answered no, but that it will do so at the meeting immediately following the Public Hearing. He indicated that generally, aside from some changes for telephone adjustments, the budgets were generally non-contentious. D. Daley added that the MBC has only taken a formal vote on the operating budget, and that it was recommended by a vote of 7:2:1. Selectman Barry spoke that the MBC had reduced the Selectman's proposed Town Operating Budget by \$5,000, but that he was reasonably happy with the final number.

M. Clark spoke to the changes on the School Warrant Articles. She informed the Committee that the Operating Budget will be reduced to \$12,050,064 as a result of reducing the number of buses serving DCS by 1. Also, in Warrant Article #2 the School Board has included the language "up to" before the dollar amount to be retained from surplus. In Warrant Article #3 the School Board has voted to remove the word "Purchasing" and to add "up to" before the dollar amount to be retained from surplus. There was no change to the language of Warrant Article #4, and the School did add an additional Warrant Article #5, but with no financial implications.

Motion: Selectman Barry moves to adjourn the Public Hearing

Second: Vice Chairman Spillane

All in Favor – Motion Carries

Reconvene MBC Meeting – 6:16p

Approval of Minutes – January 7, 2013

Motion: Selectman Barry moves the minutes as written

Second: Vice Chairman Spillane

Discussion: M. Clark asked that the bus company name be corrected from "DAHL" to Dail Transportation.

Vote to approve the minutes as amended: Yea 10, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Discussion and Review 2014 Town Budget & Warrant Articles

Motion: Selectman Barry moves to recommend Town Warrant Article #8, a 2014 Town Operating Budget of \$3,644,504 (default \$3,583,122)

Second: M. Clark

Discussion: D. Daley voiced his concern that the default budget from 2013 was approximately \$3.2 million, whereas the default budget for 2014 was shown at almost \$3.6 million. He would expect some explanation from the Select Board on this sizeable difference. Vice Chairman Spillane and Member B. von Hassel echoed that concern. Selectman Barry responded that there will be further explanation to come, adding that the number is a draft figure and has not officially been approved. Vice Chairman Spillane asked what the Select Board's vote on this Article was. Selectman Barry answered that they have not voted on the Article as a whole because of the default budget number. B. von Hassel communicated that he will be voting no on this motion purely based on the fact that the default number is a part of the Article.

Vote: Yea 9, Nay 1, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Motion: Selectman Barry moves to recommend Town Warrant Article #1

Second: M. Clark

Discussion: Selectman Barry updated the Committee that the Highway Agent has asked to change this Warrant Article from the purchase of a new/used excavator to a new/used loader. The Department's loader has broken down twice in the last week and when it is out of service they are forced to rent another piece of equipment at a cost of \$65/hour. D. Daley noted that the dollar amount of \$94,000 had not changed and asked if a loader and excavator would cost the same. Selectman Barry spoke that they are working on a more concrete figure and that the number may change at the Deliberative Session. He noted that the Loader purchased for the Transfer Station cost \$106,000.

Alex Cote has spoken with five distributors. Currently Anderson Equipment has thirty-five of the same Loaders the Town purchased for the Transfer Station out on winter rental. They expect these units to be made available for purchase in April. Generally they thought \$70,000 would be a good figure on a piece of equipment to meet the needs of the Town and they will be visiting this week to consider a value on the backhoe to be traded in. D. Carbone asked how old the loader was. A. Cote answered that it was purchased new in 2000, adding that using it as a combination backhoe and loader has shortened the life span. The machine to be purchased would be used exclusively as a loader and he would estimate a life span of 20 years. D. Carbone asked how the \$70,000 figure would compare to the cost of a new machine. A. Cote answered that the \$70,000 estimate would be for a vehicle one or two years old with low working hours, he estimated the cost of a brand new machine to be \$120,000. He added that they are looking at the same equipment that the Transfer Station uses in an effort to achieve maintenance and parts cost efficiencies.

B. von Hassel asked for more detail on the repairs needed on the current loader. A. Cote answered that they are having pin problems with the bucket, as well as issues with the axel and front end assembly. There have been challenges in getting replacement parts and the vehicle has more than 7,000 hours of use on it. Chairman Verville asked why this purchase was added instead of, versus in addition to, the excavator purchase. A. Cote answered that he believes this is the larger priority and does not feel the Town can afford both. An excavator can be rented for a few months during the Summer, but the loader is needed for operation year round.

Vote: Yea 10, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Motion: Selectman Barry moves to recommend Town Warrant Article #2

Second: M. Clark

Discussion: A. Cote spoke that the current Department vehicle is a 2002 F450, this would be to purchase a replacement vehicle, presumably a F550. The current vehicle is used as an everyday truck within the Highway Department. It was refurbished three years ago and currently the cab is rusting through. They have replaced three transmissions, a front end and a rear end over the life of the truck and expect the trade in value to be virtually \$0. He referenced the maintenance records in the budgets backup materials. D. Carbone asked whether 12 years was typical for this type of vehicle. Selectman Barry spoke that the truck was under spec when bought which has led to many of the problems. F. McGarry asked whether the \$67,000 was under the State Vehicle contract rate and A. Cote confirmed yes. He also reminded the MBC that the Department has the services of a retired heavy equipment mechanic doing repair work at cost of \$16/hour that would otherwise cost \$70-\$80/hr.

Vote: Yea 10, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Motion: Selectman Barry moves to recommend Town Warrant Article #3

Second: M. Clark

Discussion: Selectman Barry noted that these funds are intended to be used towards the purchase of a new Tanker in 2016 and for self-contained breathing apparatus that is due to be replaced in three years. The Department has 20 of these units and replacement will cost \$6,000/each.

Vote: Yea 10, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Motion: Selectman Barry moves to recommend Town Warrant Article #4

Second: M. Clark

Discussion: Selectman Barry explained that the current vehicle is 10 years old with 119,683 miles. D. Carbone noted that the vehicle looks to be in great condition and asked whether it still runs. Chief Tibbetts responded that yes, it is in good condition, but that it is getting tired. He noted the hours of use that take a heavy toll on emergency response vehicles and added that the vehicle is his lifeline to get to emergency situations. D. Carbone suggested a new engine, at a cost of \$6,000-\$7,000 may extend the life of the vehicle another three or four years. Vice Chairman Spillane asked about trade in value towards the new purchase, Chief Tibbetts indicated that he has asked the Select Board to keep the vehicle for the Department to use for travel to training. D. Daley asked, if they hold onto the current vehicle, where it would be stored, Chief Tibbetts answered outside.

Vote: Yea 6, Nay 4, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Motion: Selectman Barry moves to recommend Town Warrant Article #5

Second: M. Clark

Discussion: Selectman Barry noted that this is the 4th installment of the repairs being done to the outside of the GBW Building.

Vote: Yea 10, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Motion: Selectman Barry moves to recommend Town Warrant Article #6

Second: M. Clark

Discussion: Selectman Barry spoke that these funds will be put away in preparation for future building repair needs that will most certainly arise with a 65 year old facility.

Vote: Yea 10, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Motion: Selectman Barry moves to recommend Town Warrant Article #7

Second: M. Clark

Discussion: Selectman Barry spoke that this Trust Fund was established in 2013 and that the Town is looking to set aside funds for the purchase of an EKG and CPR (LUCAS) machine. Vice Chairman Spillane questioned whether having the machines listed in the Warrant Article, as opposed to in the backup materials, limits the monies for that use only. Selectman Barry did not believe that to be the case, but noted that he will look into it further. B. von Hassel asked what "Rescue Vehicle" expenditures would be. Selectman Barry answered that there are plans to replace the Department's vehicle in 2018, he noted the language for the fund is designed to be all encompassing.

Vote: Yea 10, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Motion Carries

Discussion and Review 2014 School Warrant Articles

Motion: M. Clark moves to recommend the School Operating Budget of \$12,050,064

Second: Selectman Barry

Discussion: M. Clark reiterated that the School Board has voted to remove a bus from service to the DCS resulting in a decrease of \$39,835 to the bottom line. D. Daley thanked the School Board and various representatives for their work on the budget, specifically for recognizing the MBC's concerns with regards to Teachers and the Mobile Units. He feels the relatively level funded budget can anticipate strong support from the community.

Vote: Yea 10, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Motion: M. Clark moves to recommend School Warrant Article #2

Second: Selectman Barry

Discussion: M. Clark spoke that the School Board agreed with the previous comments of the MBC and, for added flexibility, has added the phrase "up to" in front of the proposed dollar amount to be retained from surplus.

Vote: Yea 10, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Motion: M. Clark moves to recommend School Warrant Article #3

Second: Selectman Barry

Discussion: M. Clark spoke that the School Board took the MBC's concern into consideration and voted to remove the word "purchasing" from the original language of the Article. They have also included the phrase "up to" in front of the proposed dollar amount to be retained from surplus. B. von Hassel spoke that he will be voting no, while he appreciates the change in the wording, he does feel that this item should be a part of the Schools regular operating budget.

Vote: Yea 9, Nay 1, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Motion: M. Clark moves to recommend School Warrant Article #4

Second: Selectman Barry

Discussion: M. Clark noted that there has been no change to this Article since the MBC last reviewed.

Vote: Yea 10, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

On behalf of the School Board, M. Clark thanked the MBC for involvement in the preparation of this year's School budget.

Old Business None

New Business None

Citizens Comments None

Adjourn:

Motion: Selectman Barry moves to adjourn the meeting of January 14, 2014

Second: M. Clark

All in Favor – Motion Carries – Meeting Adjourned @ 6:52pm

Next Meeting Tuesday, January 14th @ 6:00pm

The Minutes were Recorded, Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by Katie Libby.
Pending Approval by the Municipal Budget Committee