

WORK SESSION

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PRESENT: L.M. Smith, Chairman; J. E. Ziolkowski, Vice Chairman; R.P. McDermott, Selectman; L. A. Ruest, Town Administrator; S. Ayer, Secretary

2017 DRAFT WARRANT – REVIEW:

Articles 2, 3 and 4, proposed amendments to Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance:

Information for amendments to the Zoning Ordinance will be supplied by the Planning Board.

Articles 5 and 6, Fireworks and Solid Waste Ordinance Public Hearings: It was noted that public hearings will take place on November 16 and December 7, after which the wording will be finalized.

On a suggestion by L. Smith, it was agreed that the dumpster for construction material should be placed at the Brush Dump only during the Spring household waste collection day.

Article 7, 2017 Proposed Budget: (Reviewed separately, below.)

Article 8, Heritage Commission: The request for \$2,000 was discussed briefly. Heritage Commission Chair Beverly Mutrie was present to explain that the \$1,300 left in the Heritage account is not enough to do much with, and they hope to have historic house signs made to sell.

Article 9, Liberty Elm Tree Fund: This article was removed for 2017, and will be added back in as the need arises.

Article 10, Tercentenary Celebration Capital Reserve Fund: A Public Hearing will be held on November 16 to determine the amount to put in this article.

Article 11, Tricentennial: This article, added in case a separate amount will be requested for events, will also be determined after the Public Hearing.

Article 12, Old Library Building Improvement Capital Reserve Fund: Removed due to the structural survey of the Museum taking place; no request was submitted to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Committee.

Article 13; Article 14, Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund and in –cruiser computer equipment and software account: Police Chief Robbie Dirsa was present to discuss these articles. As the CIP Committee had recommended reducing the Cruiser Fund request from \$22,000 to 0 for 2017, the Chairman asked him to explain why four cruisers are needed. In discussion, it was identified that a new SUV cruiser has a total cost of roughly \$53,000, and also that police details brought in an average of about \$13,250. Additionally, the estimated amount that will be left in the Cruiser Fund at the end of 2016 will be \$40,000 - \$42,000.

There was a lengthy discussion on how to ensure funding for future vehicle needs, while keeping tax rates level by keeping a constant amount in the budget.

It was decided to leave Article 13 as proposed, with \$22,000 requested, and eliminate the request for \$6,000 in Article 14. This expense may be part of the communication fund proposed to be formed from Comcast franchise fees (Article 23).

There was a lengthy discussion of police cruisers, how long they can be used before maintenance costs increase to a level that indicates the need for a new vehicle, and the difference between the older sedans vs. the new SUVs in this regard.

Article 15, Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund: Fire Chief Jay Lord presented a spreadsheet showing anticipated fund balances over the years 2016 through 2020. He said the reduction of this article to \$25,000 at the suggestion of the CIP Committee is acceptable, as there should be

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sufficient funds by 2019 to buy a replacement fire truck. After some discussion, the Selectmen agreed to lower Article 15 to \$25,000.

Article 16, withdrawal of funds from Fire Department Vehicle Fund for 2016 ambulance purchase: This article was removed.

Article 17, Highway Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund: There will be a discussion with the Road Agent about road work that needs to be done before setting the amount of the warrant article for 2017 Highway projects.

Article 18, "Landfill Closure Fund": All agreed to leave this amount in the Warrant, to provide for closure of the landfill, which might be mandated at any time.

Article 19, Library Improvement Capital Reserve Fund: No change.

Article 20, Master Plan Capital Reserve Fund: Removed.

Article 21, Mosquito Control: No change. J. Ziolkowski suggested that the mosquito control contract should be bid out in the future.

Article 22, Use of former scholarship fund for Community Center portion of proposed new gymnasium building at LAS: Town Counsel will be drafting appropriate wording for this Article.

Article 23, Use of Franchise Fees: The time frame for use of franchise fees for communication purposes was set to be concurrent with the Comcast contract. As the contract renews in 2017, the Article will read "for years 2017 through 2021." Wording of this article will reflect that the funds can be used for communication and media purposes of all Town Departments.

The Town Administrator will update the Warrant and forward to Counsel and the DRA for review; the Selectmen will revisit and possibly vote on the revised draft Warrant at the December 7 meeting.

2017 BUDGET SUMMARY: The 2017 proposed budget is \$70,050 higher than the 2016 budget, roughly a 2.7% increase. The only variable still outstanding is the library budget. There was a discussion of various areas of the budget that could be reduced.

Under Solid Waste, account 4324, it was decided to reduce line 810 from \$46,900 to \$40,000 because of the decrease in the cost per ton for waste disposal.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.