

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Public Meeting

February 19, 2014

Present:

Theresa Jarvis, Chair

David Swenson, Selectman

Excused Absence:

Jeffrey Kratovil, Selectman

Also Present:

Jeremy Bourgeois, Town Administrator

Rudolph (Rudy) Rosiello, Citizen

David Bickford, Citizen,

Cecile Chase, Moderator

Dorothy Viesel, Citizen

Jim Ladd ,Videographer

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Jarvis at 7:02 PM.

Chair Jarvis stated the purpose of the meeting was to read the Warrant Article and to hold a public hearing on Article 2 adoption of RSA 40:13.

Moderator Chase read the Warrant Article.

The election will be held from 8 AM to 7 PM on March 11th, at the New Durham Elementary School gymnasium. The Town Meeting will be held in the gymnasium on March 12th starting at 7 PM.

Article 1 Vote for officers:

- Selectman ~ Vote for not more than 1- David Bickford - Rudolph Rosiello – Robert Kroepel
- Moderator ~ Vote for not more than 1 – Cecile Chase
- Planning Board ~ Vote for not more than 2 – Paul Raslavicius – Robert Craycraft
- Supervisor of the Checklist ~ Vote for not more than 1 – Anneleen Loughlin
- Cemetery Trustee ~ Vote for not more than 1 –Dennis J. Martin
- Library Trustee ~ Vote for not more than 2 – John Michaud – William Meyer
- Trustee of the Trust Fund ~ Angela Pruitt

Article 2 ~ Adopt provisions of RSA 40:13 known as SB2 ~ 3/5 majority vote required

Public Hearing opened at 7:16 PM:

Dorothy Viesel spoke against this warrant article. She stated she has done some research into the SB2 form of Town Meeting. Her findings revealed to her that there is very low attendance at the deliberative session where the warrant articles can be amended before going on the ballot. She feels that people even though more people might vote, they are not as well informed, partly because the Annual Town Report is not ready in time for the deliberative session. She stated she found that of the 62 towns with SB2, 30 of them have tried to repeal it and 3 of them have repealed it. She stated there are also only 2 budget

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options, the one agreed upon at the deliberative session and the default budget. She would rather see the Town find other ways to increase participation in town meetings such as move it to Saturday during the day. Theresa Chabot disagreed. She said there could always be a chance of a predetermined outcome with either form of meeting. She feels SB2 is a more diplomatic process. Rudy Rosiello said both sides have value but he enjoys seeing the passion of people at the town meetings. He would like to see more people participate. Selectman Swenson asked what happens if the budget fails at the polls. Ms. Viesel stated the default budget would be used. Selectman Swenson stated the fact that towns have been unsuccessful in converting back to town meeting speaks in favor of SB2. Ms. Viesel stated this could be because people are becoming separated from the issues and just vote. She stated her concern is the decline in attendance at the deliberative session.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:50 PM.

Moderator Chase continued reading the Warrant Article.

Article 3 ~ Amendments to the New Durham Zoning and Land Use Ordinances.

Chair Jarvis stated the Town portion of the tax rate ending in 2013 was \$6.19 per \$1,000 and the estimated Town portion including the operating budget and warrant articles is \$5.98 per \$1,000.

Article 4 ~ Operating budget in the amount of \$2, 917,253. Chair Jarvis thanked the Budget Committee and the department heads for their due diligence on this years' budget. The tax impact is an estimated \$5.33 per \$1,000.

Article 5 ~ Raise and appropriate for the purchase of a police cruiser the amount of \$35,618 to come from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund (CRF). David Bickford asked why this was necessary to place on the warrant article as the BOS are the agents to expend already. Chair Jarvis stated large purchases have always been put before the voters even though it is not necessary. This is an advisory article.

Article 6 ~ Raise and appropriate for Milfoil Treatment the amount of \$18,200 to come the Milfoil CRF and a grant.

Article 7 ~ Raise and appropriate for the Road Surface Management System (RSMS) the amount of \$215,651 to be partially offset by the Highway Block Grant Aid, \$102,840 from the Road Construction CRF, and \$53,005 to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

Article 8 ~ Raise and appropriate for the Fuel Pump System the amount of \$20,000 to come from the Fuel Pump System CRF.

Article 9 ~ Raise and appropriate for the Capital Reserve Funds the amount of \$271,722.

- Highway Truck \$60,192
- Police Cruiser \$22,500

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- Revaluation \$20,000
- 1772 Meeting House Restoration \$5,000
- Fire Truck \$47,030
- Highway Equipment \$10,000
- Library Facilities \$1,000
- Library Technologies \$1,000
- Smith Ball Field & Equipment \$3,000
- Milfoil \$12,000
- Road Reconstruction \$75,000
- Solid Waste Facilities Improvement \$5,000
- Fuel Pumps \$10,000

This has \$.65 tax rate impact.

Article 10 ~ Raise and appropriate for the Expendable Trust Funds (ETF) the amount of \$32,750 to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. No tax impact.

- Computer Systems and Office Equipment \$12,250
- Record Management \$500
- Town Building Improvement \$20,000

Article 11 ~ To support a Constitutional amendment. Petition Warrant.
Selectman Swenson asked Representative Bickford what is the legislature's point of view. Rep. Bickford stated it has not been before the legislature as yet.

Article 12 ~ All other business

Voting will be on March 11th, 2014 from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM at the New Durham Elementary School gymnasium.

Moderator Cecile Chase thanked everyone for attending. She also encouraged people to attend Meet the Candidate Night on February 25th at the Library at 7:00 PM.

Chair Jarvis made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Swenson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM

Respectfully Submitted
Laura Zuzgo

A video recording of this meeting is on file with the Office of the Town Clerk, is available for public viewing during normal business hours, and will be retained in accordance with the New Hampshire Municipal Records Board rules established under RSA 33-4:4, or for a minimum of 24 months.