

DRAFT
North Hampton Budget Committee
Draft MINUTES
Public hearing for the proposed municipal warrant
January 17, 2004

Chairman Robbie Robinson began the public hearing to at 8:05 a.m. He introduced the members of the budget committee and town administrator Mike Pardue.

Present: Paul Fitzgibbons, Homer Johnson, Larry Miller, Robbie Robinson, Susan Smith, Peter Simmons, Lloyd Sullivan and Cynthia Swank
Absent: Mary Coppinger

The chairman explained that there was no difference in the town and budget committee recommended columns in the proposed budget because this was the town's 4th document and the budget committee had been suggesting changes during the process. The chairman explained also that he had asked that \$1000 more per year be budgeted for the budget committee recorder.

The chairman then read through all town warrant articles that included a dollar amount, pausing after each line for questions or comments from the audience of approximately 35 people.

On Article 14 appropriating \$97,500 for Mosquito Control, Gene Johnson of North Rd. asked where the spraying occurred and requested more attention to town and school playing fields. Michael Morrison explained what he had learned from last year's control efforts and promised to develop a program focusing on schools and fields for this coming season.

On Article 29, a citizen's petitioned request to locate a new highway department on town-owned land on Cherry Rd., a letter was read from Stanley Knowles of Cherry Rd., who could not attend due to illness, opposing that site because it is zoned residential, only 2 of the 5.7 acres is buildable, and it could affect the wells of abutters.

Laurel Pohl distributed a list of reasons not to build at Cherry Rd. that cited negative financial impact for the town.

Jim Better of North Rd. shared photos with the committee of the Exeter salt shed that he said was the model for the proposed salt shed on Cherry Rd.

Jeff Hillier of Glendale Rd. said the new highway department was long overdue and asked what would happen if both Article 29 and 30 passed, which seemed to be in opposition to each other. Selectman Lloyd Sullivan said the town was not bound to spend any money, even if authorized, and the decision would be up to the Board of Selectmen. He said the town was seeking more information from the New Hampshire Municipal Association.

On Article 31, the proposed town operating budget of \$3,931,365, Jill Brandt of Atlantic Ave. asked, in light of recent town-wide reevaluation, for a list of all articles that would impact taxes vs.

those which would be taken out of the town's undesignated fund balance. Mr. Sullivan promised to have that for the deliberative session.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the budget committee met to discuss and vote on all money articles.

Article 9: motion by LS to recommend, second by HJ; passed unanimously 8-0.

Article 10: motion by LS to recommend, second by HJ; passed unanimously 8-0

Article 11: motion by LS to recommend, second by CS; passed unanimously 8-0.

Article 12: motion by LS to recommend, second by PF; passed unanimously 8-0.

Article 13: motion by LS to recommend, second by PS; passed unanimously 8-0.

Article 14: motion by LS to recommend, second by SS; passed unanimously 8-0.

Article 15: motion by LS to recommend, second by HJ; passed unanimously 8-0.

Article 16: motion by LS to recommend, second by HJ; passed 7-0-1 with PS abstaining due to family relation to Fire Chief.

Article 17: motion by LS to recommend, second by HJ; passed 6-0-2, with PS and CS abstaining.

Article 19: motion by LS to recommend, second by PS; passed unanimously 8-0.

Article 20: motion by LS to recommend, second by PS; passed unanimously 8-0.

Article 21: motion by LS to recommend, second by HJ; passed unanimously 8-0.

Article 22: motion by LS to recommend, second by PS; passed unanimously 8-0.

Article 23: motion by LS to recommend, second by HJ; passed unanimously 8-0.

Article 24: motion by LS to recommend, second by HJ; passed unanimously 8-0.

Article 25: motion by HJ to recommend, second by PF. Discussion notes that the cost of the property will likely be \$60,000 more than the \$550,000 in the citizen's petitioned article due to loss in income clause. Also no money authorized yet to maintain, insure, raze building, or build new town building on site. Committee voted 5-0-3 to recommend. For: HJ, LM, PF, CS, LS. Abstain: RR, SS, PS.

Article 26: motion by HJ to recommend, second by PF; passed unanimously 8-0.

Article 27: motion by PS to recommend, second by HJ; passed unanimously 8-0.

Article 28: motion by PS to recommend, second by HJ. Discussion on worthiness of cause and methods for requesting charity from town.
Vote: 5-3. For: RR, HJ, LM, SS, PS. Against: CS, LS, PF.

Article 29: motion by LS to recommend. Discussion on history of search for highway dept land, opposition to site, cost to town of Cherry Rd. vs. purchase and construction elsewhere, need for facilities due to OSHA, EPA and Dept of Labor citations, and what message budget committee recommendation sends to voters. Vote: 2-4-2. For: CS, LS. Against: HJ, RR, PF, LM. Abstain: PS, SS.

Article 31: motion by HJ to recommend, second by LS; passed unanimously 8-0.

HJ made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/13/04, seconded by LS; passed unanimously.

HJ made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/15/04, seconded by LS; passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Lloyd Sullivan, seconded by Homer Johnson.
Meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Kane
Recording Secretary

(These minutes are DRAFT until approved by the budget committee.)