



## **APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Selectmen's Meeting Room

7:00 pm

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Present:       Chairman, Elaine Kelly  
                  George Brenckle  
                  Janice Hight  
                  Bob D'Amico

Absent:         Rick Nieber  
                  Tony Poteete

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

#### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Hight moved the Committee vote to approve the March 23, 2017 meeting minutes, Mr. D'Amico seconded the motion. Minutes approved as submitted.

Ms. Hight moved the Committee vote to approve the March 27, 2017 meeting minutes, Mr. D'Amico seconded the motion. Minutes approved as submitted.

#### **UPDATE ON WATER ENTERPRISE FUND**

Mr. Coderre informed the Committee that as a community member of the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA), the Town is eligible to participate in the Local Water System Assistance Program, whereby the Town can utilize nearly \$1 million of funding for water system improvement projects. The payback term is ten years with a zero percent interest rate. This is a rolling funding program that in the past has reestablished fund availability on a 10-year cycle, with the current cycle concluding in FY2020.

Mr. Coderre reminded the Committee that the Northborough Water Enterprise Fund received borrowing authorization at the 2014 Annual Town Meeting in the amount of \$1.5 million to complete a system-wide water meter replacement program. This project is nearing completion and Mr. Coderre explained the funding approach for this project. The Town will utilize \$500,000 of retained earnings from the Water Enterprise Fund to reduce the principal debt. The MWRA zero interest loan will fund the remainder the project, with a direct savings of approximately \$178,000. The Committee thanked the staff for their creative efforts resulting in zero financing charges for the \$1.5 million project.

## **UPDATE REGARDING HEALTH INSURANCE**

Mr. Coderre provided a brief update on Health Insurance, noting that the FY2018 Budget is at \$5.52 million, an increase of \$424,844 or 8.3%. This includes all active General Government and K-8 School employees and Town & School retirees. Due to the current Health Insurance Premium renewals requiring a budget increase of \$611,700 or 12%, the FY2018 Budget remains structurally unbalanced pending negotiated plan design changes. He noted the Insurance Advisory Committee, which is made up of all the unions, has unanimously recommended plan design changes that should close the budget gap. The goal is to finalize and implement the plan design changes prior to Town Meeting.

## **REVIEW AND VOTE ON TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES**

The Town Administrator presented the final Town Meeting Warrant for the Committee to vote on any articles that deal with an appropriation, and requires their recommendation at Town Meeting.

The Committee acknowledged the Joint Budget Hearing on March 27<sup>th</sup> with the Selectmen as well as their review of the FY2018 Operating and Capital Budget documents. All requested information has been received and reviewed by the Committee. The Committee acknowledged the presentations and detailed materials provided by the various departments which have been ongoing. The Committee also acknowledged the final report of the Financial Planning Committee which reviewed all the recommended FY2018 Capital Budget projects included in Warrant Articles 21-33. Given those reviews, the Chair indicated that it is now appropriate for the Committee to vote its recommendations for Town Meeting.

Ms. Hight moved the Committee vote to recommend approval of the following articles at the Annual Town Meeting:

Article 4 – Town Budget

Article 5 – Water, Sewer & Solid Waste Funds

Article 6 – Northborough K-8 Schools Budget

Article 7 – Northborough-Southborough Regional School District Budget

Article 8 – Assabet Valley Regional School District Budget

Article 9 – Library Grants

Article 10 – Authorization to Selectmen for Grant Applications

Article 11 – Revolving Accounts Combine Articles 12-17

Article 12 – Reauthorizes the Fire Department Revolving Fund

Article 13 – Reauthorizes the Animal Control Revolving Fund

Article 14 – Reauthorizes the Family and Youth Services Department Revolving Fund

Article 15 – Reauthorizes the Council on Aging Revolving Fund

Article 16 – Reauthorizes the Community Affairs Committee Revolving Fund

Article 17 – Reauthorizes the Library Revolving Fund

Article 18 – Appropriations Committee Reserve Fund

Article 19 – Stabilization Fund Contribution

Article 20 – Application of Bond Premium

Article 21 – CIP – Forestry Truck

Article 22 – CIP – Police Cruiser Replacements

Article 23 – CIP – DPW – Six Wheel Dump Truck with Spreader and Plow

Article 24 – CIP – DPW One Ton Dump Truck with Plow

Article 25 – CIP – DPW – One Ton Dump Truck with Chip Body and Plow

Article 26 – CIP – DPW – Chipper

Article 27 – CIP – DPW – Fisher Street Culvert Replacement Design

Article 28 – CIP – Crawford Street Slope Easements & Retaining Wall  
Article 29 – CIP – DPW – Road Improvements & Maintenance  
Article 30 – CIP – Sewer – Sewer Inspection Camera System  
Article 31 – CIP – Sewer – West Main Street Sewer Pump Station Improvements  
Article 32 – CIP – Water & Sewer – One Ton Service Truck with Plow  
Article 33 – CIP – School Department – Proctor School Roof Repairs  
Article 34 – FY2017 Water Meter Replacement & Billing System Debt Service  
Article 40 – Community Preservation Fund – Bartlett Pond Treatment  
Article 41 – Community Preservation Fund – Trails Committee  
Article 42 – Community Preservation Fund – Transfer to NAHC  
Article 43 – Community Preservation Fund – Town Common  
Article 44 – Community Preservation Fund – Green Street Debt Service  
Article 45 – Community Preservation Fund – Historic Resources Reserve  
Article 46 – Community Preservation Fund – CPA Administration  
Article 55 – Community Preservation Fund – White Cliff Debt Service

Mr. D’Amico seconded the motion; all members present voted in favor.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORT TO TOWN MEETING**

By agreement, Chairman Kelly will complete the Appropriations Report to Town Meeting based upon the discussion and votes taken this evening.

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE AND COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE**

The Committee meets next on Monday, April 24, 2017 at 6:45 pm in Room B124 at Algonquin Regional High School

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. D’Amico moved to adjourn; Ms. Hight seconded; motion to adjourn approved unanimously.

7:50 p.m. – meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*John W. Coderre*

John Coderre, Town Administrator

#### Documents used during meeting:

April 6, 2017 Agenda

March 23, 2017 Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Information packet – Meter Replacement Program Funding

Information packet – Health Insurance Design Plan Options

List of Warrant Articles for Recommendation