

Members Present: Gary Wells, Chair, Ed Behn, Lisa Blazejewski, Tara Howard, Jim Driscoll, Phyllis Jaffee, Hank Rauch, Beth Blumberg (arrived at 7:46 p.m.). Absent: Jim Tepper.

At 6:02 p.m. Mr. Wells called the meeting to order in Memorial Hall of the Town Hall.

Open Forum

There was no one here to address the Committee.

Approval of Past Minutes

Meeting No. 15, January 21, 2016

Mr. Behn made a motion to accept the minutes of 1/21/16. Voted: 7-0-0.

Meeting No. 16, January 25, 2016

Mr. Behn made a motion to accept the minutes of 1/25/16. Voted: 7-0-0.

Meeting No. 17, February 1, 2016

Mr. Behn made a motion to accept the amended minutes of 2/1/16. Voted: 7-0-0.

Warrant Article & Budget Reviews – Wendy Mickel, Town Clerk

Mr. Wells had a couple of questions regarding the Town Clerk's budget since expenses increased by 82.78% from FY16 to FY17. He asked about the new binding process for the vital records books and pointed out that it is listed as a recurring expense. Ms. Mickel explained that the Massachusetts Department of Vital Records & Stats has been working toward providing cities and towns with electronic records. She said that the State has spent the last few years getting births and deaths on-line, and then will start adding marriages. However, until all records are on-line, Ms. Mickel said that they need to continue updating their records and binding the record books so the records are kept safe and current. Ms. Mickel thought that it should take her office about 5 years to get caught up with binding the books, so the cost should be a recurring expense until then. She noted that with the electronic records, the State will start charging the Town a fee every time they sell a record. The Town will get their fee, but then they will have to turn over the rest of what is collected to the State. Regarding voting, Ms. Mickel explained that we are coming up on the March 1st election date and she needs to have election workers at voting booths all day for 11 days prior to March 1st in order to process absentee ballots. She said that her office will have extra help on hand but she doesn't know where that will end up for additional pay. Ms. Mickel noted that she may need more money this year, but at this point she isn't sure.

Article 28 – Town Clerk - Election Dividers - \$6,700: Ms. Mickel said that she is looking to purchase dividers to be used during elections since the dividers would corridor off various precincts now that all voting takes place at the high school. Ms. Mickel showed a sample of a divider, which was a screen on wheels so it is easier to move, and mentioned they are about \$1,200 each. Ms. Howard asked where these dividers would be stored. Ms. Mickel said she isn't sure and thought perhaps at the DPW or high school. She also noted that she needs storage for the election equipment. Right now, Ms. Mickel said that voting equipment is stored at the DPW, Spurr House, the Forbes Building, and at the Town Hall. She explained that it is difficult for her to keep track of where the various election equipment is located. Ms. Jaffee pointed out the modular furniture used at elections and wondered if there were any dividers somewhere in town that we could use. Ms. Mickel said that there were dividers but they are of various sizes and colors and felt that the voting area may get noisy. Ms. Jaffee asked if during the many moves and relocation of Town offices if partitions were stored somewhere instead of buying new ones. Ms. Mickel said she would double check. Ms. Jaffee thought that the Town may have sturdier partitions that

could help reduce noise better than what Ms. Mickel was proposing for purchase. Ms. Mickel noted that there are dividers at Forbes, but they are of various sizes and some are broken, and understood that the dividers would only be used for one day. Ms. Jaffee pointed out companies that go out of business that may have this type of product they are willing to give away. She recommended that Ms. Mickel try GSA as a vendor to see if they have any partitions in stock. Ms. Mickel mentioned that she also has the presidential election coming up. Ms. Jaffee was concerned with the feet on the dividers since that can be a safety issue. Ms. Mickel said that the dividers they are looking at are more maneuverable and on wheels. Ms. Jaffee acknowledged that the dividers she's referring to may not be as easy to move, but they could be free. Ms. Mickel pointed out that the hardest part is putting up the dividers, since they need to rely on the DPW, but if it snows then they don't have that manpower. Ms. Mickel mentioned that she will do some additional research and send her feedback to the AFC. Mr. Wells added that if we need to send a crew to pick up the free dividers then they aren't truly free.

Warrant Article & Budget Reviews – Kristi Williams, Assistant Town Manager

Article 5 – Amend Classification Plan - \$0:

Ms. Williams ran through some of the changes to the classification plan:

Council on Aging – Ms. Williams pointed out that they changed the grade of the substitute bus driver to make it consistent with the grade of the part time mini-bus drivers.

Conservation – Ms. Williams explained that the Conservation Officer's duties have evolved to dealing with conservation issues only as a full time position and not in addition to being the Assistant Town Planner. She said this position's daily oversight will fall under the Town Manager and no longer under the Town Planner.

Fire – Ms. Williams pointed out that the Fire Department would like to add another Captain's position, and they are also updating the grade for on call firefighters.

Historical Commission – Ms. Williams said that the Administrative Assistant's hours have changed to 4 ½ hours per week.

Library – Ms. Williams noted a retirement over the summer that resulted in some changes to the staff. They increased the hours for the circulation supervisor from 30 to 40 hours and included reference duties left open by the retirement. Ms. Williams also pointed out that they merged the duties for the Youth/Teen Librarian as a result of the retirement, so that position went to 40 hours per week as well.

MIS/GIS Director – Ms. Williams mentioned that they want to increase the part time position for this department from 10 hours per week to 19.

Recreation Department – Ms. Williams pointed out changes to seasonal staff to make these positions more consistent with what other towns do. They are also requiring coaches and referees to be Town employees rather than working as independent contractors.

Accounting – Ms. Williams noted that they are increasing the hours for the Assistant Town Accountant from 35 to 40 hours per week.

Treasurer/Collector – Ms. Williams explained that right now this department has three Administrative Assistants – two that are full time at 40 hours per week and one that is part time at 25 hours per week. One of the full time employees is retiring this summer so they would like to add an Assistant Treasurer position.

Youth & Family Services – Ms. Williams said that they would like to increase the hours for the Youth Activities Coordinator from 400 to 500 hours per year.

Ms. Williams pointed out that they are removing the two Veterans positions since we are now part of the Veterans regional district which is administered by the Town of Grafton.

Ms. Blazejewski asked Ms. Williams how this article will be delivered at Town Meeting. Ms. Williams thought that it will likely go by department but she will check with Town Manager, Jim Malloy. Ms. Howard suggested explaining this article as it is laid out in the warrant. There was some discussion and Ms. Blazejewski pointed out that there are pluses and minuses and residents need to understand what is being presented. Mr. Behn suggested a table. Mr. Rauch noted that the information in this article is also related to information in the budget. Mr. Behn agreed with Ms. Blazejewski that – if not presented correctly – this article could lead to confusion and Town Meeting could be bogged down with questions. Ms. Howard asked for a more methodical chart. Mr. Driscoll inquired as to the minimum hours per week that an employee needed to work in order to receive benefits. Ms.

Williams said 20 hours per week made an employee eligible for benefits and they would then contribute accordingly. Mr. Wells suggested that Ms. Williams look at the Town Manager's statement and consider rewording it for better presentation and bulleting each department. Ms. Jaffee recommended organizing by what has previously been approved, what they are adding to, and what they are deleting from in order to make it clearer. Ms. Howard agreed and advised having charts showing additions, changes, and deletions. Ms. Williams noted that the warrant is still open so there is time to change the way this article is presented.

Article 6 – Amend Wage and Salary Schedule – Personnel Board - \$0:

Ms. Williams explained that this article is for cost of living adjustments (cola) for non-union employees. She pointed out that this article includes changes to the General Group's salary schedule, an increase for the Registrar of Voters from \$125 per year to \$200 per year based on a recommendation by Town Clerk, Wendy Mickel, and changes to the Recreation Department. Ms. Williams mentioned that Recreation Director, Alan Grady, researched other towns and wants to change the first three pay levels for seasonal employees, along with what scorekeepers and referees get paid. Ms. Williams also noted the increase to the minimum wage. Mr. Rauch asked if Ms. Williams was confident that these changes make sense. Ms. Williams pointed out that payroll for Recreation Department employees comes out of their revolving fund, which is funded out of fees collected from programs. Mr. Wells pointed out that this article affects about 29-30 employees that are part time or full time non-union employees. Mr. Driscoll asked when steps go in to effect and Ms. Williams noted that employees advance in steps on their anniversary date and typically receive a 5% pay increase plus 2% cola increase for the first 5 years.

Warrant Article & Budget Reviews – John Badenhause – Youth & Family Services (Y&FS):

Y&FS Director, John Badenhause introduced himself, along with members of the Youth Commission. Mr. Badenhause noted that he requested this meeting with the AFC since he submitted his budget but the Town Manager didn't agree with the additional hours needed for the coordinator for the "What's Up Tonight?" program. Mr. Badenhause explained that the "What's Up Tonight?" program is for high school age teens that provides activities during the school year. He mentioned that when Y&FS started having the Youth Commission they wanted something similar to the "Hot Summer Nights" program that takes place over the summer months. It was noted that they first started running "What's Up Tonight?" last year, and hired an advisor to work with the Youth Commission on running events. Members of the Youth Commission added that they had a successful event with Laser Tag and pointed out the problem with a small town like Westborough is that there is less to do as they get older. They mentioned that "What's Up Tonight?" provides a safe, clean environment where they can do something fun without worries. It was also noted that they would like to try to do other things like tubing, skiing, and a trip to Kimball Farms. Members of the Youth Commission felt that they worked out the kinks last year with the program being new and thought that they would be more successful going forward. Mr. Badenhause pointed out that he asked for additional hours for the "What's Up Tonight?" program under the Youth Activities Coordinator position, which came out to an increase of 100 hours (from 400 to 500 hours) and Mr. Malloy did not approve. Mr. Badenhause noted that he will allocate 275 hours to the "Hot Summer Nights" program and leave the balance of 125 hours to the "What's Up Tonight?" program, but he felt it would be difficult to coordinate eight months of programs in 125 hours. He mentioned that he tries to hire college students for "Hot Summer Nights" since they are around from May to August. Mr. Badenhause pointed out that they are still in the process of developing the "What's Up Tonight?" program, and that they would like the students involved in planning and work with the coordinator to facilitate. Ms. Jaffee asked how many events ran and how many students participated. Mr. Badenhause mentioned that last year was the first year. They did a lot of planning but only ended up having two events – one was a trip to the YMCA and the other was for Laser Tag. It was noted that unfortunately no one showed to the Y since a high school volleyball game was going on at the same time. The Youth Commission mentioned that there were 20 students who showed up for Laser Tag. This year they didn't end up hiring a coordinator until just last week so they are getting a late start and haven't done anything yet for this academic year. Ms. Jaffee verified that there was money budgeted for this program for the current year and Mr. Badenhause said there was and that the program will still run. Mr. Badenhause noted that last year he asked for 500 hours for the Youth Activities Coordinator and the Town Manager reduced it to 400 hours, however, The AFC raised it back to 500 hours but it didn't make it in to last year's budget. Mr. Wells referenced the Y&FS

budget which had 275 hours allocated for the “Hot Summer Nights” coordinator and 225 hours for the “What’s Up Tonight?” coordinator. He pointed out the reduction in the Y&FS budget since a new Administrative Assistant was hired at a lower rate after the previous one left in July. Mr. Badenhause mentioned that all money he is requesting is for personnel. He said that he didn’t have a sense as to how much money they would be spending until they hired someone. Mr. Behn asked about their goal for next year and how many events they plan on holding. Mr. Badenhause said that they hope to have 8 to 10 events per year. Mr. Badenhause noted that the difference between what he is asking for and what the Town Manager is recommending is \$3,668. Mr. Badenhause referred to his handout regarding the “What’s Up Tonight?” program. Ms. Howard mentioned that she had high schoolers go through the school system and she was glad to see activities, but she would prefer to see better coordination with other high school events so there is more attendance at these events. Mr. Badenhause pointed out that they hired a high school teacher so there should be better coordination and less conflicts with multiple events going on in the same night. The Youth Commission added that last year they were late in booking events so many venues were already full and couldn’t accommodate them. They also advertised events too late so students already had plans. They mentioned that they are booking events in advance so they can advertise and market better to students by providing more notice. Mr. Driscoll asked if these events were just for Westborough high school students. Mr. Badenhause mentioned that Westborough students may bring high school students from other towns but they need to accompany the Westborough student.

Warrant Article & Budget Reviews – Joanne Savignac, Town Treasurer:

Ms. Savignac asked the AFC if there were any questions on her budget. Members of the AFC noted that they did not have any questions since her budget decreased. Regarding the current debt level for the town, Ms. Savignac provided a handout. She referred to School debt and Town debt, which was projected out to 2023 on her handout. Ms. Savignac noted that the debt number is a fluid number, since it depends on what is voted at Town Meeting, and gave examples of how that could change such as for renovating the Forbes Building, or if the Water Department refinances debt, or if there are any new sewer projects that are approved. Mr. Wells explained, for the newer AFC members, that Mr. Malloy’s graphs show differently since he adds in future projects, where as Ms. Savignac’s graphs show debt without any additions. Ms. Savignac mentioned certifications for borrowing, such as paying a financial advisor and legal fees. Mr. Wells asked if 3% interest was accurate if looking to borrow for the Forbes renovation. Ms. Savignac said possibly - though that could change since it could be another three years before they are permanently borrowing. She pointed out that if Town Meeting votes to approve the Forbes renovation now that the actual borrowing wouldn’t take place until FY20. Mr. Behn mentioned equal payments where we pay the same principal amount each month so interest drops down resulting in a lesser amount for total debt overall but we pay more up front.

Warrant Article & Budget Reviews – Alan Grady, Recreation Director

Article 10 G – Tennis Courts on West Street - \$57,000:

Mr. Grady reviewed Article 10 G and provided a slide show presentation indicating the current state of the tennis courts on West Street. He mentioned there were cracks on the courts with weeds growing in between. Since they have become a safety issue, Mr. Grady said that the Recreation Department was forced to close these courts last spring. He pointed out that the Haskell Street courts are used often, since they are the only ones with lights, and they have spent about \$8,200 to fix cracks on the Haskell Street courts due to this constant use. He noted that they would like to line the West Street courts for Pickle Ball use as well. Mr. Grady reviewed his handout where he compared Westborough to other towns and noted that the courts they were going to build on Lyman Street received approval from the Capital Expenditures Committee, but then the Recreation Department decided to look in to fixing the West Street courts first before building new courts. He added that the Recreation Department is also looking in to a grant through the USTA for the Lyman Street courts, but pointed out that this could take years. Mr. Wells asked if there were lights on the West Street courts and Mr. Grady said there were not, but that there will likely be lights on the new courts on Lyman Street. Mr. Grady noted that West Street is residential, and there may be opposition to lights, whereas Lyman Street has more traffic so it is less of a concern. Ms. Howard asked about the tennis court at the Veterans Freedom Park. Mr. Grady mentioned that court is included in the count on his handout where he lists three courts in town – two at Haskell and one at the Veterans Freedom Park.

Mr. Grady noted that the tennis courts on West Street will be stripped down to their base, which is why it is costing \$57,000 and not \$8,000 to fix the cracks. Ms. Blazejewski asked about the life expectancy of the courts once they are re-done. Earl Storey from the DPW and also a member of the Recreation Commission said that he didn't think anything had been done to the West Street courts in 30 years. Ms. Howard and Ms. Blazejewski asked Mr. Grady if any thought has been given to including payroll costs under their revolving fund. Mr. Grady didn't think the revolving fund could support three full time staff members, and was concerned with having to increase fees to the point that residents may go elsewhere and they could lose money.

Warrant Article & Budget Reviews – Jim Malloy, Town Manager

Mr. Wells noted that the AFC has gone through the majority of articles with other departments and asked Mr. Malloy if they could run through the remaining articles pertaining to the Town to see if there were any questions.

Article 3 – Prior Years Bills - \$1,219.77: There were no questions.

Article 4 – Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Transfers - \$300,000: Mr. Malloy explained that this article changed slightly and referred to the health insurance budget. He mentioned that this year they had more employees that enrolled and thought that was due to changes in the private sector making the Town plan more attractive. Mr. Malloy noted that there were also changes to property insurance. He had emailed Mr. Wells letting him know that he is working on getting FY17 insurance rates and that it will come in at a 7.5% to 14% increase. Mr. Malloy mentioned that he had originally budgeted for a 10% increase and used the FY16 base plus the additional 10%, and not the FY16 base plus \$300,000 to calculate the 10% increase. He is now recommending an increase to what is already in the budget of \$11,324,300 by an additional \$150,000, but hopes it goes down. He will be recommending this increase in insurance costs to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) next week. Mr. Malloy forwarded a breakdown of all insurance costs to the AFC as the BOS had requested. He referred to savings for the incentive they offer to employees to go with their spouse's plan if that is an option. Mr. Malloy noted that if they didn't have this incentive, he felt insurance costs would be \$500,000 higher.

Article 10 I – Capital Stabilization Fund - \$150,000: Mr. Wells referred to the Nourse Street cemetery and mentioned that we are adding money to the stabilization fund and then taking it out. Mr. Malloy said that theoretically they are setting money aside, but the Town can vote to spend it on whatever they want. Mr. Malloy is recommending that we set aside a certain amount for the specific purpose of using on the cemetery.

Article 15 – CSX Mitigation Receipts Reserve Account Amendment – \$125,000: Mr. Malloy explained that he is looking to transfer \$125,000 from the CSX Mitigation Receipts Account to help with installing period style lighting in the downtown area. He said that they had begun installing the light pole bases but couldn't tap in to the original National Grid lines since they are too old. Originally Mr. Malloy thought they had enough money to fund the period style lighting from the Toll Brothers project but found they do not. Since they need to put in all new conduits, he is looking to use money from the CSX fund.

Article 16 – Accepting MGL Ch. 121B, §3 and Article 17 – Accepting MGL Ch. 40, §8E - \$0: Mr. Malloy discussed the Housing Authority and Youth Commission and noted that we need to adopt these statutes. He mentioned that we are taking the Housing Authority out of the Charter, but then found that we need to adopt the statutes first to create the Housing Authority. Mr. Malloy said that we are legally creating the Housing Authority and then deleting it from the Charter since it doesn't belong there.

Article 21 – General Bylaw Amendment – Personnel Board – \$0: Mr. Malloy pointed out that the Personnel Board makes recommendations on pay classification, tuition reimbursement, sick leave buyback, and cola and step increases under the direction of the Assistant Town Manager. These recommendations are then approved by the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager. He mentioned that the Charter Review Committee felt there was no need to have a Personnel Board, and moved these tasks under the Assistant Town Manager position as also being in charge of Human Resources.

Article 22 - eClinical Works Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Agreement - \$0: Mr. Malloy explained that eClinical Works is expanding their business in Westborough and adding over 2,000 new employees in the near future. Mr. Malloy went over their intent for investing in the community. He pointed out that eClinical is paying \$21.2 million for the property they are purchasing, and then will perform about \$25 million worth of renovations and improvements to the site, along with another \$3 million for other items. Mr. Malloy mentioned that the tax

reduction will only be done on the difference in amount between what the property value was before the improvements and the value after the improvements. Mr. Behn noted that the Town has done about 5 or 6 of these TIF's. Mr. Malloy thought they may be at 7. He mentioned that they've had difficulties getting the drug company, Cantrell, here due to state regulations.

Article 23 - Cumberland Farms Tax Increment Financing Agreement – \$0: Mr. Malloy explained this is a similar circumstance as eClinical. Cumberland Farms is moving their corporate headquarters to Westborough and will be doing improvements to their building on Flanders Road.

Article 24 – Pre-K to 3rd Grade School Building Committee Architectural Funding – \$250,000: Mr. Malloy explained that the \$250,000 in funds being requested will be used for two different purposes. One is to come up with a list of options available and cost estimates. The second part is to hire an Owners Project Manager (OPM), since they cannot hire a designer until they hire an OPM first per State law. Mr. Malloy pointed out that the OPM would assist in the designer selection process. Mr. Malloy said that they are looking at installing modular units at Hastings and moving the Pre-K classes in order to re-distribute the other classes and gain more room. The Pre-K to 3 School Building Committee will examine what would be the next project such as a new Fales elementary school. Mr. Malloy mentioned that if a new school is needed then they must submit a statement of interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) so the Town is in the queue for funding. Mr. Malloy pointed out that the MSBA funding cycle could take anywhere from 1 to 10 years before we get approval. Mr. Wells added that this is a short term borrowing for now until we see the entire amount. Mr. Doret mentioned, once we hear from the MSBA that we are approved, then we can proceed to the next steps which will require funds to hire an OPM, engineer, and architect. There are also short term costs for the modular units. Ms. Blumberg asked if other options were explored since it sounds like we are already going with the MSBA. Mr. Wells said that they have not made a decision yet but are getting in a position to move forward. He said there are a number of options but they don't have pricing, so they cannot have a discussion until they get an idea of how much each option would cost. It was noted that short term costs need to be covered in order to figure out long term costs. Mr. Doret mentioned that the MSBA only provides about 42-43% in State aid, so we want to get in the queue in case it is needed. Mr. Malloy pointed out that some items aren't covered under the MSBA, for instance modular units, but if we build a new school that would be covered under MSBA. He added that they are trying to come up with ideas for Armstrong, Fales, and Hastings elementary schools to resolve space issues.

Article 27 - Westborough State Hospital Maintenance – \$25,000: Mr. Malloy mentioned that he is looking for \$25,000 to replenish the fund for maintenance at the former State Hospital site. He said the money originally allocated has been used for tree and brush removal, mowing the lawn, and fixing buildings that were broken in to with new locks and plywood, along with pot hole repairs to the roads. Mr. Malloy noted that if we sell the property we can deduct the costs for repairs and maintenance from what we owe the State for their share.

Article 29 – DPW Garage Roof Repair – \$600,000: Mr. Wells asked what Mr. Malloy's thoughts were for funding this project and whether it would be a long term borrow or if he would take an equal amount from the general, water, and sewer funds. Mr. Malloy thought he would take an equal amount from the three funds and discussed the study that was done on the roof. He mentioned that some repairs were less expensive but more of a short term solution. Since the building is in great shape and should last another 25 to 30 years, they decided to go with the total roof replacement. Mr. Malloy pointed out that he doesn't want to take the money for this project out of Free Cash since that is getting drained down without much going back in. Mr. Behn felt there could be continued discussion once we get a look at the numbers.

Article 38 – Request for Special Legislation to Establish a Local Fuel Tax – \$0: Mr. Malloy mentioned that this article is to establish a local fuel tax and discussed what needs to be done in town for maintaining and repairing roads and sidewalk expansion since Ch 90 funds were cut. He felt that if we fund the shortfall through a local fuel tax then it spreads the cost among all drivers using the roads in town rather than assessing the cost to residents only through an increase in property taxes. Mr. Malloy noted that his estimate of raising \$250,000 through the fuel tax is low since he didn't include the gas station on the Mass Pike. Ms. Jaffee asked how the local fuel tax would be administered. Mr. Malloy said that he looked at other towns (Charlton and Lee) and it is collected by the State and then repaid to the town similar to how other taxes are collected. He pointed out that he didn't think the additional \$.03 cents would be a hardship. Mr. Behn asked how long it took Charlton to get this special legislation passed. Mr. Malloy said that he would find out for both Charlton and Lee. Ms. Blumberg asked

if the gas station located on the Mass Pike is definitely in Westborough since that would be a huge difference in what was collected. Mr. Malloy said that he would contact the Mass DOT. He noted that the property line between Westborough and Hopkinton runs through where the pumps are located. Mr. Malloy mentioned that, as a worst case scenario, we could split what was collected with Hopkinton.

Article 39 – Economic Development Committee Membership – \$0: Mr. Malloy explained that the new Fire Chief Pat Purcell asked to become a member of the Economic Development Committee (EDC). Since he doesn't live in town, the only way he could participate as a voting member is to become an appointed member. Mr. Malloy mentioned that there is no cost associated with this article. He also noted that some complaints he has heard from businesses is that our permitting process is cumbersome and we need to be more user friendly.

Article 40 – Amend Zoning Bylaw: Property Reclassification: Spurr House – \$0: Mr. Malloy explained that the current zoning is for municipal purposes only so they could sell the Spurr House to another town. He said they are asking to change the zoning classification for this property from municipal use to residential use so it is consistent with the rest of that neighborhood.

Mr. Malloy informed the group that he will be adding Article 41 for moving the Vietnam Memorial from the back of the high school to the front of the Forbes Building where all of the other memorials are located. Selectman, Denny Drewry, brought this item up at the last BOS meeting and the Selectmen said they would support it if he could get a price by next week. Mr. Malloy noted that they hope to get this work done by Memorial Day.

Mr. Rauch asked Mr. Malloy about the Y&FS budget and the difference between what Y&FS was asking for and what Mr. Malloy recommended. Mr. Malloy mentioned the "Hot Summer Nights" and "What's Up Tonight?" programs and felt they should be offered through the Recreation Department. Mr. Wells thought that the Recreation Department offered more sports type programs and not necessarily social events like the two programs through Y&FS. Mr. Malloy's opinion was that there are departments putting on events that may be better handled under a different department and pointed out the movies shown Bay State Commons which is put on by the Library as an example. Ms. Jaffee didn't disagree but was concerned with losing momentum with the "What's Up Tonight?" program if the coordinator's hours are cut. Mr. Malloy didn't think that he had cut funds – he just didn't agree with increasing this department's budget. Mr. Rauch mentioned that he agreed with Mr. Malloy. He felt that the town has a Recreation Department who should run these types of programs and Y&FS should stick with their purpose of counseling. Mr. Rauch noted that if we are serious about controlling taxes then we need to restrict services. He mentioned that if we keep adding services then taxes will keep going up. Ms. Blazejewski pointed out that even if these programs are moved from Y&FS to the Recreation Department that there will still be a cost for adding additional programming. She didn't feel that moving programs from one department to another solved anything. Ms. Blazejewski added that the Board of Selectmen approved having a Youth Commission who recommended this program and felt we shouldn't have gone down this path if weren't going to listen to what they wanted. Mr. Wells mentioned that the AFC can debate this topic at a later time and wanted to finish discussions with Mr. Malloy.

Mr. Malloy wanted to point out a few items that will change from his original numbers. For the budget, he noted that he was comparing FY15 numbers to FY17 and not FY16 to FY17. He also thinks revenue under Local Receipts will increase since we will likely go up on our ambulance fees, and mentioned that the rates we are charging Blue Cross/Blue Shield dates back to the 1990's. In addition, Mr. Malloy pointed out that Astra Pharmaceuticals isn't moving out of town yet so we are still collecting taxes. He noted that the financial picture looks better from what he had thought, though insurance costs are going up and the Police Officer contracts are still being negotiated.

Budget and Warrant Article Review - Continued

Mr. Wells pointed out that the AFC has reviewed the majority of the articles, with the exception of Planning. He noted that next Monday, February 22nd, the Country Club, Municipal Building Committee, and Town Planner, Jim Robbins, and Planning Board Chair, Brian Bush, will be in to discuss their articles. Mr. Wells informed the Committee that he met with School Superintendent, Amber Bock, and School Committee Chair, Nicole Sullivan,

and he has scheduled another meeting with the AFC on February 29th. He reminded members that there is no AFC meeting on February 18th, and that representatives from Assabet Valley Regional Vocational High School will be in on February 25th. Mr. Wells mentioned that the warrant closes on February 23rd and he hopes to have the Report & Recommendation book completed by February 25th. He would like to start voting on non-controversial articles as early as February 22nd. Mr. Wells asked the Committee that if there are any departments that need to be invited in to please let him know as soon as possible. Mr. Wells said that he will update the Revenue and Expenditures Report based on new numbers from Mr. Malloy.

Mr. Doret was asked about Article 10 H – Repoint Mill Pond Masonry Column and Reconstruct Mechanical Equipment Column/Fencing for \$70,000. Mr. Doret declined to comment since he's not as well versed on this article. Mr. Behn mentioned that the School's Facilities Director, Gordon Richardson, made a presentation at a meeting he attended. Mr. Behn noted that some columns in the front of the school need to be repointed. He also said that some columns that are not located in the front of the school have deteriorated and those will be taken down and replaced with fencing since it is more cost effective.

Committee Liaison and Department Liaison Reports

Mr. Doret reported on the Gibbons School Building Committee. He mentioned that they received the construction schedule today. He provided Mr. Wells with a plan. Mr. Doret noted that they had to force the scope of work to fit the bottom line of what was voted. Mr. Doret pointed out that they are still on target to start construction this summer. The first step is for the excavator to create a temporary parking along the road out in front of the school since parking spaces in the back will disappear. Mr. Doret mentioned that sometime around March 1st they will let the public know about the process that's about to start.

Comments and Concerns – Committee Members

None

Public Reminders for Viewers

None

Adjournment

Mr. Behn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m. The vote to adjourn was 7-0-0 in favor, with 7 being present (Ms. Blumberg wasn't present for this vote).

Document List

“What's Up Tonight?” – John Badenhause

General Debt Principal and Interest 2016 to 2023 – Joanne Savignac

Water Sewer Enterprise Principal & Interest Debt Obligations – Joanne Savignac

Tennis Court Information – Alan Grady

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Thomas,

AFC Administrative Assistant