

Members Present: Ian Johnson, Chair, Judy Lucas, Cliff Watts, Ronn Moody, J. J. Malone, Jo Lown, Polly Howard, John Arnold. Absent: Carolyn Spring.

At 7:00 p.m. Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Open Forum

There were no requests to address the Committee.

Approval of minutes – Meeting No. 16, March 26, 2007

Mr. Watts moved approval of the minutes of Meeting No. 16, March 26, 2007. The vote to approve the minutes was 8 in favor with 8 members present.

Citizen's Petition Review – Article 36. Request to Rezone Property (in draft warrant dated 3/27/07)

John O'Neill reviewed his petition to rezone property at 42 Summer Street (owned by George B. Jastrzebski) and 46 Summer Street (owned by Village Lumber.) Both properties are currently zoned as Residential, but are contiguous with properties that are zoned as Downtown Business. Both properties are income generating rental units. Village Lumber would like to use the back section of the lot at 46 Summer Street to store lumber and for parking, but this is not possible with the current zoning. Mr. O'Neill stated his intention to keep the residences as they are since they provide income. Mr. O'Neill will meet with the Planning Board tomorrow to discuss this issue. Another option may be to apply for a variance on the allowable use of 46 Summer Street.

Debbie Schradieck, a neighbor on Summer Street, voiced concerns about the whole block becoming business at some point in the future. The neighbors feel this would take away from their property values. Ed Newton, neighbor, feels a variance would be possible. Mary Anne Burritt, neighbor, presented a petition in opposition to this re-zoning signed by 125 Westborough residents. Brett Borglund, neighbor, is also against the re-zoning. He points out that lumber has been stored in that spot for years. He would support a variance. All neighbors present stated their support for Village Lumber and the proposed use of the property at 46 Summer Street. They are concerned about a change in the zoning making it possible for a future owner to make changes of which they do not approve.

Mr. O'Neill understands the concerns of the neighbors. He does not feel that any business use of Summer Street would be feasible due to the size of the street. In his opinion a business use of this block would have to use Milk Street for access. He may contemplate applying for a variance, which would meet his current needs without the option of changing this residential area in the future.

Article Review – Articles 22 and 23. (in draft warrant dated 3/27/07)

Dexter Blois of the Municipal Building Committee reported that the Municipal Building Committee is working diligently with various engineers and architects to resolve issues around parking for a Public Safety Building. They do not yet have an answer. Mr. Moody asked if this study could happen before July 1 with a transfer from the cash reserve at ATM. Mr. Blois stated that the committee would like to have an interim report ready by January 2008. Mr. Malone asked if the study needed to be this extensive, and which buildings would be included. Mr. Blois stated that the proposal is based on one estimate, and when the job is put out to bid it could be less expensive. The study currently would include the Town Hall and the Forbes Municipal Building. Mr. Johnson asked if it would be more efficient and less costly to first determine if the Public Safety Facility could include both Fire and Police Departments, and then limit the scope of the study based on this.

Mr. Blois replied that all the town office space is intertwined and moving one will affect all others, but that it would be less extensive and could probably be done for \$95,000.

Mr. Johnson asked for updated information on the asbestos issue at the Vee-Arc Building. Mr. Blois stated that the town's environmental consultant spoke with the Department of Environmental Protection about the difference in the estimates, and they were not willing to make any adjustments. The town has a grant for \$30,000 to cover a job the DEP is now estimating will cost \$135,000. The article is requesting \$230,000 which will cover \$125,000 demolition after the hazardous waste removal, and \$105,000 for hazardous waste removal. The DEP gave a worst-case estimate, and so not all of these funds may be required. If the RFP can be written to take the actual amount of hazardous waste removed into account the actual cost may be closer to the \$30,000 initial estimate. The building needs to be demolished and any delay will increase the cost of demolition and push back the timeline on a new building.

Dr. Malone asked for a new total request on Article 22. Mr. Blois replied \$95,000.

Discussion and votes on various FY2008 budgets

Mr. Johnson noted the new information in each committee members' folder, including information requested of Nancy Yendriga, new budgets for Police, Street Lights, and Youth and Family Services, and new recap sheets. On the recap sheets, the budget figures given are the coordinator's recommendations. The budgets do not include any contract settlements. At this time, if everything on the warrant is funded, the excess levy is \$30,000. It is unlikely that the contracts will be settled by the time of the Annual Town Meeting, so there will most likely be a fall ATM. Ms. Lown requested a schedule of voting on budgets, and that the larger budgets be voted on closer to the ATM as they may have more flexibility. Mr. Johnson noted that for those budgets that include salaries of elected officials, those salaries must be voted separately per M.G.L. 41-108.

A table of votes taken is attached to these minutes.

Liaison Updates

Ms. Lown reviewed the School Committee meeting she attended. For details, see the School Committee minutes of 3/28/07.

Ms. Howard gave several schedule updates.

Mr. Johnson noted that the Historical Commission, Explorer Post, and Department of Public Works will make presentations on Thursday.

Comments and concerns of Committee members

Mr. Johnson has checked with Ms. Savignac regarding the library trust fund A. There are sufficient funds and they could be used for the wireless internet upgrade.

Adjournment

At 9:10 p.m. Mr. Watts moved to adjourn the meeting. The vote to adjourn was unanimous (8 present and in favor).

Votes taken at the Finance Committee meeting on April 2, 2007

1) Budget votes

Budgets are voted on using figures current as of 4/2/07.

Moderator, Dept. No. 11141

Salary \$250, Expenses \$0, Total \$250

Mr. Watts moved to accept the \$250 salary.

Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 8 in favor with 8 being present.

Advisory Finance Committee, Dept. No. 11312, 11313

Salary \$1,804, Expenses \$2,880, Total \$4,684

Mr. Watts moved to accept the \$1,804 salary and \$2,880 expenses.

Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 8 in favor with 8 being present.

Accountant, Dept. No. 11341, 11343

Salary \$130,672, Expenses \$545, Total \$131,217

Mr. Watts moved to accept the \$130,672 salary and \$545 expenses.

Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 8 in favor with 8 being present.

Assessors, Dept. No. 11371, 11373

Salary \$224,914, Expenses \$14,899, Total \$239,813

Mr. Watts moved to accept the \$224,914 salary and \$14,899 expenses.

Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 8 in favor with 8 being present.

Legal, Dept. No. 11511, 11513

Salary \$99,377, Expenses \$60,500, Total \$159,877

Mr. Watts moved to accept the \$99,377 salary and \$60,500 expenses.

Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 8 in favor with 8 being present.

Personnel Board, Dept. No. 11522, 11523

Salary \$4,183, Expenses \$49,547, Total \$53,730

Mr. Watts moved to accept the \$4,183 salary and \$49,547 expenses.

Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 8 in favor with 8 being present.

Communications, Dept. No. 11573

Salary \$0, Expenses \$41,500, Total \$41,500

Mr. Watts moved to accept the \$41,500 expenses.

Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 8 in favor with 8 being present.

Central Purchasing, Dept. No. 11583

Salary \$0, Expenses \$96,000, Total \$96,000

Ms. Lucas questions Line 5228, Printing and Copying, \$7,000.

Vote on the budget recommendation is deferred.

Election & Registration, Dept. No. 11621, 11623

Salary \$13,375, Expenses \$16,555, Total \$29,930

Mr. Moody asks if the \$2,000 for Nancy Yendriga falls under the Elected Official rule.

Vote on the budget recommendation is deferred pending information from Town Counsel.

Conservation Comm., Dept. No. 11712, 11713

Salary \$35,731, Expenses \$4,125, Total \$39,856

Mr. Watts moved to accept the \$35,731 salary and \$4,125 expenses.

Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 8 in favor with 8 being present.

Planning Board, Dept. No. 11721, 11723

Salary \$185,856, Expenses \$10,350, Total \$196,206

Mr. Watts moved to accept the \$185,856 salary and \$10,350 expenses.

Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 8 in favor with 8 being present.

Board of Appeals, Dept. No. 11732, 11733 Salary \$11,144, Expenses \$1,600, Total \$12,744

Mr. Watts moved to accept the \$11,144 salary and \$1,600 expenses.

Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 8 in favor with 8 being present.

Buildings & Grounds, Dept. No. 11852, 11853 Salary \$164,710, Expenses \$197,800, Total \$362,510

Mr. Watts moved to accept the \$164,710 salary and \$197,800 expenses.

Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 8 in favor with 8 being present.

Weights and Measures, Dept. No. 12543 Salary \$0, Expenses \$2,250, Total \$2,250

Mr. Watts moved to accept the \$2,250 expenses.

Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 8 in favor with 8 being present.

Street Lights, Dept. No. 14243 Salary \$0, Expenses \$53,000, Total \$53,000

Mr. Watts moved to accept the \$53,000 expenses.

Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 8 in favor with 8 being present.

Trustees of Soldiers Memorials, Dept. No. 15483

Salary \$0, Expenses \$1,800, Total \$1,800

Mr. Watts moved to accept the \$1,800 expenses.

Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 8 in favor with 8 being present.

Recreation, Dept. No. 16201/16202, 16203 Salary \$206,558, Expenses \$0, Total \$206,558

Mr. Watts moved to accept the \$206,558 salary.

Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 8 in favor with 8 being present.

Cultural Council, Dept. No. 16303 Salary \$0, Expenses \$2,000, Total \$2,000

Mr. Watts moved to accept the \$2,000 expenses.

Vote to approve the budget recommendation is 7 in favor and 1 opposed (Moody) with 8 being present.

Animal Control, Dept. No. 12921, 12923 Salary \$46,250, Expenses \$24,280, Total \$70,530

Mr. Johnson pointed out a discrepancy in the figures.

Vote on the budget recommendation is deferred.

Totals: Salary \$1,065,199, Expenses \$442,796

2) Warrant article votes

There were no votes on Articles.