

Members Present: Ian Johnson, Chair, Judy Lucas, Cliff Watts, Jo Lown, John Arnold, Carolyn Spring, Denzil Drewry. Absent: Ronn Moody, Brigitte Casemyr.

At 7:03 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. 1 FY2008

Mr. Watts moved approval of the minutes of Meeting No. 1, July 9, 2007. The vote to approve the minutes was 7 in favor with 7 members present.

Review of Draft Warrant for Special Town Meeting

Mr. Johnson noted several items distributed to committee members:

- Free cash numbers have been certified – General Fund, \$1,755,694, Sewer Enterprise Fund, \$1,689,297, Water Enterprise Fund, \$1,368,290, Country Club Enterprise Fund, \$528,146.
- FY06 Expenditures Per Pupil, All Funds – Westborough spends more on Classroom and Specialist Teachers, and less on Administration, than the state averages. This information is available on the State Department of Education web site.

Henry Danis presented the draft Warrant for the Special Town Meeting.

- Article 1: This is to fund any contracts negotiated by the town. The DPW SEIU Local 888 contract has been ratified by the Board but not yet signed by the union. Police Patrolmen Union contract is still under negotiation. The presentation will include three-year costs of each contract. Four union contracts are still in negotiation with the School Committee.
- Article 2: To Fund one of two DPW positions which are currently vacant. Cost of \$24,400 will cover position through end of FY08.
- Article 3: Was presented at ATM in May and deferred.
- Article 4: Funds for this article come from the Water Enterprise fund. There has been some trouble with vandalism at the Water Treatment Plant, and the cameras will increase security.
- Article 5: Maryanne Bilodeau will explain this article.
- Article 6: There were some issues with jet skis coming too close to the swimming area at Lake Chauncey over the summer. This article will address concerns for safety on the lake.
- Article 7: On Adjudicatory Boards whose opinions have the force of law, including the Zoning or Planning Boards, this will allow members to miss one meeting and still vote on issues presented at that meeting provided they review the evidence submitted at the missed meeting and file a certificate to said effect. This is only allowed for one missed meeting.
- Article 8: There are two Hopkinton residences whose wells have been contaminated by sodium run-off from the Mass Pike. The Selectmen approved the hook-up to Westborough town water last spring. The Turnpike Authority will pay the costs for this.
- Article 9: To allow Police Department a direct tie-in to AFIS system. Hardware for this was bought by the Sheriff's Department with funds from Homeland Security. This request is to buy the necessary software.
- Article 10: Municipal Building Committee will present this article.

- Article 11: The Country Club Operating Committee would like to keep the current Golf Professional and Superintendent of Greens for five years. The state will not allow a three-year contract with two one-year extensions as has been done previously. The by-laws do not allow contracts longer than three years.
- Article 12: This came from discussion at the last ATM. By beginning the meeting at 10 am and leaving breaks to the discretion of the Moderator, the meeting has a greater chance of being completed on Saturday.
- Article 13: This is a place-holder for any School Department contract settlements that may be negotiated by the time of the meeting.

The warrant will be voted on by the Selectmen next Tuesday. It will then be ready for posting.

Set Dates for Meetings to Review Town Meeting Articles

Future meetings are set for October 1, October 4, and October 8 (if necessary) at 7 pm in the Selectmen's Office, and October 22 (if necessary) at 5:30 pm in the High School Auditorium. Meetings with Committees to hear presentations on Articles in the Warrant will be scheduled for October 1.

Liaison Updates

- Mr. Johnson noted that the liaisons to the Departments coming in to give presentations should try to connect before October 1.
- Mr. Johnson spoke with Leah Talbot. There are no numbers certified on excess levy at this time. Revenues are down from May projections. Excess levy is estimated at \$250,000 at this time, but this is not firm. \$150,000 from the State as a result of the School Building Assistance audit will come to the town. The sum of these two items would result in \$400,000 in excess levy capacity. There is \$1,566,000 in the Stabilization Fund. Warrant article dollar amounts are not clear as most will come from contract settlements.
- Ms. Spring stated that the Country Club Operating Committee would like to present an explanation of their article to the AFC.
- Mr. Johnson reported that the Personnel Board offered to meet with the Council on Aging and the Town Clerk. The Council on Aging declined, but the Town Clerk is working with the Personnel Board to develop other options to help in the office.
- Mr. Watts thanked Judy Lucas for organizing and hosting the party for JJ Malone and Polly Howard. The other members of the committee concurred.
- Ms. Lown will contact John Walden.

Comments and Concerns of Committee Members

- Mr. Arnold asked about the procedure for exceeding the excess levy capacity. The regular Article 2 (see below) has not been included in this warrant.

ARTICLE 2. Rule of the Meeting (Town Coordinator)

To see if the Town will vote to adopt a Rule of the Meeting, applicable to this Town Meeting only, such that after all other votes and reconsideration from the floor are complete, and if the size of the appropriations voted appear to make necessary a ballot override vote (either levy, capital outlay or debt exclusion) under MGL Ch 59 s. 21C ("Proposition 2½"), then the conditions for reconsideration shall be deemed to have been met, and the moderator shall accept motions for reconsideration on any appropriation but from the Finance Committee only, for the purpose of reducing certain appropriations or all appropriations to meet the limits of Proposition 2½, or for the purpose of making certain appropriations contingent upon an override vote.

Mr. Drewry noted that contract settlements are final and cannot be changed. Mr. Johnson replied that the town does not have to fund the contract settlements, but the contract is final. If the Town does not vote to fund the contracts, funds to pay the increases would have to come from the

Department's current budget, which could result in lay-offs. Mr. Johnson will speak to Mr. Harrington about Article 2.

- Mr. Johnson will go over the DPW SEIU Local 888 contract settlement to look at Steps, 2nd and 3rd year rates, etc. He has asked Leah for numbers of employees at max, etc. Ms. Lucas will ask the School Committee for similar information on their contracts.

Adjournment

At 8:03 p.m. Mr. Watts moved to adjourn the meeting. The vote to adjourn was unanimous (7 present and in favor).