

Members present: Kevin McCormick Christopher A. Rucho
Valmore H. Pruneau Steven Quist
Allen R. Phillips

Mr. McCormick convened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Initial Review of Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Article 1 - Authorization To Hear The Reports Of Officers And Committees Of The Town

Article 2 - Authorization To Borrow In Anticipation Of Revenue And To Enter Into A Compensating Balance Agreement With A Bank

Article 3 - Authorization To Re-Establish A Revolving Fund For WBPA-TV

Article 4 - Authorization To Re-Establish A Revolving Fund For The Board Of Health

Article 5 - Authorization To Re-Establish A Revolving Fund For The Cemetery Trustees

Article 6 - Authorization To Re-Establish A Revolving Fund For The Council On Aging

Article 7 - Authorization To Re-Establish A Revolving Fund For The Planning Board

Article 8 - Authorization To Re-Establish A Revolving Fund For The Zoning Board Of Appeals

Article 9 - Authorization To Re-Establish A Revolving Fund For The Conservation Commission

Article 10 - Authorization To Re-Establish A Parks, Playground And Fields Revolving Fund For The Park Commission

Article 11 - Authorization To Re-Establish A Revolving Fund For The Fire Department

Article 12 – Authorization To Re-Establish A Revolving Fund For The Fire Department

Article 13 - Authorization To Re-Establish A Revolving Fund For Vocational Transportation

Article 14 - Authorization To Re-Establish The Summer Recreation Program Revolving Fund For The Parks Commission

Article 15 - Authorization To Re-Establish A Revolving Fund For Recycling

Articles 1 through 15 are standard articles.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Articles 1-15 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Article 16- Authorization To Establish A Revolving Fund For Celebration

This is a new Revolving Fund which will be used for Celebrations. During the budget process we discussed eliminating funding for Memorial Day and a group of individuals plan to hold fundraisers for Celebrations. Mr. Jack McCormick would like to modify this article to raise amount from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and change the authorizing authority. The current awarding authority rests in the Board of Selectmen, and the Finance Director recommends, a Board, town official or a combination of both. Mr. Phillips does not have an issue with increasing the amount and suggested establishing a Celebrations Committee.

Motion Mr. Phillips to have the Town Administrator establish a Celebrations Committee made up of three residents to be appointed by the Town Administrator, seconded by Mr. Pruneau. Mr. Rucho questioned whether this is just for Memorial Day or would this cover other things. Mr. Gaumond noted that this typically was dedicated to Memorial Day, however, the Celebrations Committee in the future could do something different. Mr. Quist feels this is a good vehicle to use. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

Motion Mr. Phillips to increase the spending threshold from \$5,000 to \$10,000, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Phillips to change the authority to a vote of the committee and prior to the

establishment of the Celebrations Committee it will be the Town Administrator, seconded by Mr. Rucho. Mr. Jack McCormick wants to continue to have the ability to have one signature for approval of an expenditure. Mr. Gaumond does not see a problem with that as long as the Committee votes for the expenditure. It was agreed to change the language to have the Town Administrator and/or the Celebrations Committee. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

Motion Mr. Rucho to include Article 16 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Article 17 – Authorization To Expend Funds In Anticipation Of Reimbursement Of State Highway Assistance Aid

This is a standard article.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 17 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Article 18 – Cemetery Transfer Funds From Sale Of Lots To Cemetery Expansion

This is a request from the Cemetery Commission.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 18 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Article 19 - Authorization To Set The Salary Of Elected Officials

This is a standard article of the Town. All salaries will be reduced to \$1.00 with the exception of the Municipal Light Plant Commissioners and the Town Clerk.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 19 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Article 20 – Restate The Sewer Budget For Fiscal Year 2009

We may need to restate this budget.

Motion Mr. Rucho to include Article 20 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Phillips, all in favor.

Article 21 – Establish The FY10 Sewer Budget

This is an annual article of the Town which sets the Sewer Budget for the Town.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 21 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Article 22 - Authorization To Transfer From The Stabilization Account

Mr. Gaumond explained that we built our budget it included local aid. Out of this year's budget we were cut about \$94,000 in Governor's 9-C cuts. Our options for dealing with this cut are cut everyone's budget in the budget fix article, carry it as a deficit for next year, or take the funds from Stabilization which requires a 2/3rds vote at town meeting. In discussions with the Finance Director, he feels it is appropriate to take this out of the Stabilization Fund. In conversations with the Finance Committee Chairman, he expressed reservations about this approach. The balance in the fund is \$922,000.

Mr. McCormick asked how much we anticipate savings with pay-as-you-throw and in turn backs, which we could distribute and pay off the 9C cuts. Mr. Gaumond has about \$50,000 for appropriation, which does not include anything for the parks, library or anybody else. Mr. McCormick was of the understanding that we would save \$120,000 with the pay-as-you-throw. Mr. Gaumond noted that the figures have now changed due to revenue changes and the \$50,000 takes into account the \$120,000 trash savings. He is hopeful that between savings in health insurance and with turn backs we will have \$400,000 in addition to the \$50,000. Mr. McCormick's preference is to use those turn back monies on the 9C cuts in addition to giving funds to the library, parks, school, police and fire.

Mr. Phillips questions how Mr. Gaumond came up with the \$400,000 figure. Mr. Gaumond expects \$200,000 in turn backs alone and he is confident that health insurance will be another

\$200,000. Mr. Phillips would like to review the hard numbers on where the money is coming from and Mr. Gaumond plans to have those figures by next week. From what he is hearing from the major collective bargaining groups we can cut \$200,000 from our health insurance line item. Mr. Rucho voiced concern that we still do not have numbers from the state and suggested budgeting month to month. Mr. Phillips suggested budgeting until October. Mr. Gaumond explained that if needed, we could amend the budget in October. Mr. McCormick voiced concern about taking the money from Stabilization as we are also taking the ice storm tree and brush removal costs from that. He would prefer funding the 9C cuts elsewhere and not use Stabilization at this point.

Motion Mr. Phillips to table action on Article 22 until next week when we can review the numbers, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Article 23 - Authorization To Transfer Free Cash Or Available Funds To Reduce The Fiscal Year 2009 Tax Rate

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 23 on the warrant and amend it to reflect FY2010, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor. It was noted that we may not need this article as the balance in Free Cash is only \$16,837.

Article 24 - Fiscal Year 2010 Omnibus Budget Appropriation Article

Motion Mr. Rucho to include Article 24 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Phillips, all in favor.

Article 25– Authorization To Transfer Unexpended Funds From Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations And Other Necessary Transfers To The Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations

This is a standard article. Mr. Gaumond explained that right now we have done a very good job living within the budget levels we had appropriated. He credited his department heads and noted that we have not used any of the Reserve Fund either. His concern is Town Counsel's budget.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 25 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Article 26– Authorization To Pay Funds From A Previous Fiscal Year

This is a standard article and at this time we know of no bills which need to be covered.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 26 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Article 27 – Authorization To Appropriate Ambulance Receipts Reserved For Appropriation For Ambulance Billing Expenses

Motion Mr. Rucho to include Article 27 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Pruneau. Vote on the motion – Messrs. McCormick, Pruneau, Rucho and Quist yes; Mr. Phillips abstains. The figure for the article will be \$18,000 to be funded through ambulance receipts.

Article 28 – Slope Agreement Authorization

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 28 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Article 29 - Vote To Establish A Regional School District Planning Committee

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 29 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

This article was a request of the Shared Services Committee. Mr. Gaumond reported that the two goals of the Shared Services Committee were look into Regional Dispatch and start the process of looking at regional school. These individuals will be appointed by the Moderator and in October they may seek an appropriation. Vote on the motion all in favor.

Article 30 - Authorization To Appropriate Funds From The Community Preservation Revenues

Article 31 – Vote To Set The Percentages For Categories Under The Community Preservation Act

Articles 30 and 31 deal with the Community Preservation Act, with one article setting the percentage and the other setting the projects to be funded. The Community Preservation Committee will present both articles at town meeting.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Articles 30 and 31 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Article 32– Appropriation To Fund An Elderly Community Services Program

Motion Mr. Rucho to include Article 32 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Phillips. Vote on the motion – Messrs. Phillips, Pruneau, Rucho and Quist yes; Mr. McCormick no.

Article 33 - Authorization To Transfer Balance Of Unemployment Line Item To Unemployment Trust Fund

Mr. Gaumond requested this article, which used to be a practice in the past. It transfers the remainder of the unemployment line item in FY09 into the unemployment trust fund to cover unemployment costs in the future.

Motion Mr. Rucho to include Article 33 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Phillips, all in favor.

Article 34 – Authorization To Establish A Revolving Fund For PAYT For Fy09.

Article 35 – Authorization To Establish A Revolving Fund For PAYT For Fy10

These two articles create the revolving fund to hold the bag receipts for the newly created Pay As You Throw trash program.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Articles 34 and 35 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Article 36 – Authorization To Transfer \$14,500 From The DPW Salaries Line To The Parks Commission Revolving Fund

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 36 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho.

This article was a request of the Parks Commission to utilize funds in this year's DPW salaries line to the Parks Commission to cover FY10 parks expenses. Mr. McCormick noted that Selectmen voted not to do this until they had an opportunity to look at all the funds we had available to spread around. Although we still may do this, he does not think they should automatically get the money before anyone else does. Mr. Phillips suggested holding this until next week and withdrew his motion. Mr. Rucho withdrew his second.

Motion Mr. Phillips to put Article 36 on hold until after the budget discussion next week, seconded by Mr. Pruneau. Mr. McCormick does not think we even need this article as the funds would be included in the DPW budget in the park's line item. Vote on the motion – Messrs. McCormick, Phillips, Pruneau and Quist yes; Mr. Rucho no.

Article 37 – Vote To Set Demand Charge For Delinquent Local Taxes

This article allows the town to set demand fees for delinquent taxes as allowed by the Department of Revenue. We are asking for a \$10.00 demand fee and it requires town meeting approval.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 37 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Article 38 –Vote To Appropriate Funds For Landfill Monitoring

Motion Mr. Rucho to include Article 38 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Phillips, all in favor.

Article 39 – Vote To Transfer From The Stabilization Fund The Town's Portion Of Ice Storm Damage
Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 39 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Article 40 – Authorization To Transfer Money To The Stabilization Fund

Article 41– Authorization To Raise And Appropriate Funds To The Capital Investment Fund

Both are standard articles, which we may pass over.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Articles 40 and 41 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Article 42 - Authorization To Expend Funds From The Capital Investment Fund To Fund Capital Equipment

More than likely this article will be passed over.

Motion Mr. Rucho to include Article 42 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Article 43 - Authorization To Change The Town's Personnel Bylaw

Mr. Gaumond requested this article be removed at this time and included on the October warrant. It is a moot point as no one is getting any increases and Town Counsel is currently looking at this proposal.

Motion Mr. Rucho to remove Article 43 at this time, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Article 44 – Authorization To Transfer Start-Up Betterment Costs To The Stabilization Fund

This article returns to the Stabilization Fund monies from the Sewer fund to repay the loan to start-up the Sewer Department. The amount will be \$31,752.83.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 44 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Article 45 - Authorization To Establish A Revolving Fund For The Beaman Memorial Library

Mr. Pruneau recused himself.

This is a new Revolving Fund requested by the Library and will allow them to make expenditures from said fund to pay for any Board of Trustees approved operational expenses of the library, to be the depository for donations paid by library patrons, to have the Library Trustees expend funds from said account and to set the annual expenditure limit at \$15,000. Mr. Gaumond recommended to Louise Howland that she have a conversation with Town Accountant Leslie Guertin relative to procedures on accepting donations. Vote on the motion – all in favor. Mr. Pruneau returned.

Article 46 - Authorization To Amend The General Bylaws

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 46 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Article 47 - Authorization To Amend The General Bylaws

This was part of our Bylaw Improvement process.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 47 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Article 48 – Authorization To Amend The General Bylaws

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 48 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho. This article amends the General bylaws to deny local permits and licenses for failing to pay municipal charges and complying with orders from the Town including connection to the sewer system. Mr. McCormick

questioned whether this would allow the Planning Board to hold something up. Mr. Gaumond explained that it would pertain to any elected Board. If the Planning Board issued an order and it was not complied with they could request the Selectmen not issue a license to that particular business. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

Article 49 – Vote to Adopt Expedited Local permitting Law Chapter 43D

Mr. Gaumond explained that in order to accept this provision of the law, the Town would need to identify the parcels we wish to include under expedited permitting. He does not have any locations at this time as we also need to get the permission of the landowner.

Motion Mr. Phillips not to include Article 49, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Article 50 – Vote To Accept Chapter 152 Section 69

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 50 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Article 51 - Authorization To Transfer River Road And Rail Trail To The DCR In Exchange For Land On Prospect Street

Motion Mr. Phillips not to include Article 51 on the warrant at this time, but to wait until October, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Article 52 – Authorization To Appropriate Funds By Borrowing

This article is sponsored by the Municipal Buildings Committee to appropriate funds for the purchase of a new building on Hartwell Street and Mr. Gaumond still needs the borrowing amount.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 52 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

It was agreed to schedule the joint meeting with the Finance and School Committees for next Thursday at 7:00.

Mr. Rucho questioned whether we could transfer more money out of the Ambulance Fees. Mr. Gaumond feels that we could and will have those numbers for next week. He did note that the plan is to set aside monies each year out of that line item for the replacement ambulance.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. Phillips at 8:15 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: May 6, 2009

Nancy E. Lucier

Kevin M. McCormick Chairman

Valmore Pruneau, Vice Chairman

Allen R. Phillips, Clerk

Steven Quist, Selectman

Christopher A. Rucho, Selectman