

WOLFEBORO BUDGET COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
January 4, 2010
Minutes

Members Present: John MacDonald, Chairman, Scott Smith, Vice-Chairman, Marge Webster, Selectmen's Representative, John Burt, Jim Eisenhower, Robert Moholland, Brian Black, Ned Giroux, Allan Bailey, Harold Parker, Members.

Staff Present: Rob Houseman, Acting Town Manager, Pete Chamberlain, Finance Director, Lee Ann Keathley, Secretary.

Chairman MacDonald opened the public hearing at 7:00 PM at the Wolfeboro Public Library.

WARRANT ARTICLES

Article X: Petition Warrant Article for Repairs and Improvements to Brewster Memorial Hall, \$110,000

John MacDonald stated Town Counsel has opined that the Budget Committee can act on a warrant article prior to the BOS.

Joyce Davis stated the Friends of Town Hall felt the \$110,000 originally requested by Rob Houseman was necessary for immediate repairs to the building however, the BOS reduced the amount to \$50,000. She stated some citizens did not feel that \$50,000 was not adequate to address the needs of the building therefore, a petition warrant article has been filed.

Suzanne Ryan questioned how such would affect the \$50,000 warrant article.

John MacDonald stated the Budget Committee did not recommend said article.

It was moved by Allan Bailey and seconded by Jim Eisenhower to accept Article X as presented.

Discussion of the motion:

Brian Black questioned why the citizens wouldn't amend Article M at the Deliberative Session.

Joyce Davis stated the Petition Warrant Article guarantees such would be on the ballot.

Suzanne Ryan questioned whether the vote tallies would be noted on the warrant article.

Dave Owen replied yes.

Scott Smith questioned the tax rate impact of such.

Pete Chamberlain replied approximately 6 cents.

Ned Giroux questioned what repairs would be done for \$110,000 versus \$50,000.

Joyce Davis stated the estimate for the repair of the leaking roof is \$37,000 therefore; the majority of the \$50,000 would be taken by that one repair. She stated the remaining repairs are associated with weatherization and addressing ADA compliance issues.

Ned Giroux questioned whether the Town is being fined for the noncompliance items.

Dave Owen replied no, however, the building cannot be used for public meetings.

Linda Murray stated that Rob Houseman stated there are life safety issues and the roof issue.

Dave Owen stated the Town has been cited by Primex and the NH Department of Labor for deficiencies; noting a list of deficiencies has been provided and an action plan is required.

Sarah Silk stated the deficiencies need to be addressed.

John Burt stated he recalls the \$50,000 would address life safety issues however, would not include structural repairs.

John MacDonald read Article X.

It was moved by Allan Bailey and seconded by Jim Eisenhower to recommend Article X as presented. Brian Black, Allan Bailey, John MacDonald, Jim Eisenhower, Harold Parker, Robert Moholland, Scott Smith, Ned Giroux, John Burt voted in favor. Marge Webster abstained because the article has not come before the BOS. The motion passed (9-0, 1 abstention).

Article W; Petition Warrant Article for the Wolfeboro 250th Committee, \$10,000

John MacDonald read Article W.

Dave Owen stated the request is for seed money for the planning of a year-long series of events for the celebration of the Town's 250th anniversary.

John MacDonald questioned who the Town representatives are on the Committee.

Dave Owen replied Linda Murray and himself. He stated that if all the money is not used it would be returned to the Town.

It was moved by Allan Bailey and seconded by Jim Eisenhower to recommend Article W.

Discussion of the motion:

Scott Smith verified the BOS has jurisdiction over how the money would be spent.

Dave Owen stated on 11/14/09 there was a kickoff celebration at the Wolfeboro Inn; noting a series of events has been planned throughout the spring and summer to culminate in fall 2010.

Jim Eisenhower questioned how much is being privately funded.

Dave Owen stated there have already been donations; noting such is what the Committee has been operating on thus far.

Jim Eisenhower questioned who has been administering the donations.

Linda Murray replied the Historical Society.

Jim Eisenhower verified the Historical Society is a 501C3 organization and questioned matching donations. He expressed concern regarding commitment by the community. He questioned the Chamber of Commerce's commitment.

Linda Murray stated Mary DeVries is on the committee.

Jim Eisenhower questioned whether the Chamber of Commerce has committed financially to the project.

Dave Owen replied no, not beyond time and energy. He stated the Committee hopes to have a permanent memorial to General Wolfe.

Suzanne Ryan questioned what the figure \$10,000 is based on.

Dave Owen stated the Committee is looking for money to be used as seed money to get funding commitments from others; noting the remainder would be raised by private donations.

It was moved by Allan Bailey and seconded by Jim Eisenhower to recommend Article W. Scott Smith, Allan Bailey, Brian Black, John MacDonald, Harold Parker, Robert Moholland voted in favor. Ned Giroux, John Burt opposed. Jim Eisenhower, Marge Webster abstained. The motion passed (6-2, 2 abstentions).

John MacDonald reviewed the 2010 Warrant Articles and tax impact related to each.

Linda Murray stated she is here to address Selectman Marge Webster's December 28th request that the Budget Committee not vote on Article V; Constructing New Town Offices on Lehner Street until after the BOS' meeting. She stated the only change to the warrant article since its original presentation (12/7/09) has been a change in language to clarify what was being proposed. She stated the BOS has not discussed any other changes nor has it discussed or voted to request the Budget Committee delay acting on it. She stated the BOS has scheduled the bond public hearing on the warrant article for 1/6/10; noting her packet does not include a revised or new warrant article for Town offices however, was informed by Dave Owen that the Chairman of the BOS asked him to meet with Victor Drouin to discuss a lease or purchase of his building. She stated she does not know what is in some pipeline nor does the public since there is no discussion item of Town Offices on the January 6th Selectmen's agenda.

John MacDonald verified there are no other warrant articles relative to the purchase of any buildings.

Dave Owen replied no; noting there are discussions with the Firefighter's Union and could be a possible settlement.

Allan Bailey stated that as a member of the community he wants to know now what is in the works so that a reasonable decision can be made. He stated he is aware information will be provided at the BOS meeting on 1/6/10 however requested the information be provided at this time.

Dave Senecal stated the issue with the Drouin building came about quickly and the appraisal of the building has been provided to the BOS. He stated Mr. Drouin moved his business to Manchester and is willing to sell or lease the building on Lehner Street; noting such would cost \$1.3 million to purchase the building. He stated there were no opportunities for the BOS to meet between Christmas and New Years in addition, Dave Owen was out of town

during that time. He stated the matter would be discussed at the BOS meeting on 1/6/10; noting the opportunity to amend, remove or change warrant articles.

Suzanne Ryan recommended the Budget Committee post a meeting following the close of the Deliberative Session in case there is a need to amend any of the Committee's prior recommendations.

BUDGET PRESENTATION

John Burt reviewed the proposed 2010 Operating Budget; noting the total budget increased 6.4%.

Referencing the cemetery study, Judy Breuninger questioned whether such would be needed every year.

John Burt replied no, such is a preliminary study.

Dave Owen stated the study relates to the layout of a new cemetery; noting additional funds would be requested in 2011 for the survey, layout and permitting of the cemetery.

Judy Breuninger questioned whether the Town owns the cemetery.

Dave Owen replied yes.

Judy Breuninger questioned the increase in legal expenditures.

Dave Owen stated the figures reflect the Town's actual legal expenses.

Linda Murray stated the expenses include a sum of money for negotiating contracts.

John Linville questioned whether there is an ongoing study by the Town to look at why the legal expenses are so much and questioned ways to reduce the Town's exposure to lawsuits.

Dave Owen stated an analysis of legal expenditures throughout the year has been provided; noting the Town had a number of major cases of litigation in which some have been resolved. He stated litigation cannot be predicted.

John Linville stated Wolfeboro doesn't do root cause analysis.

Suzanne Ryan stated the Technology budget is up 34% and questioned whether the money has been taken out of the individual department budgets.

Pete Chamberlain replied yes, the individual IT budgets have been removed and placed in a centralized budget to develop a town wide standard for purchasing and development planning for the Town. He reviewed the individual costs of the IT budget.

DEFAULT BUDGET

John MacDonald reviewed such.

Dave Owen stated the BOS voted to approve the default budget.

It was moved by John Burt and seconded by Marge Webster to adjourn the January 4, 2010 Budget Committee meeting. All members voted in favor.

Budget Committee Public Hearing continued to January 11, 2010 at the Wolfeboro Public Library @ 7:00 PM.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lee Ann Keathley

Lee Ann Keathley

***Please note these minutes are subject to approval and amendments at a later date.*