

**Meeting Minutes
Town of Wolfeboro
Budget Committee
December 19, 2011**

Members present: Chairman John MacDonald, Brian Black, John Burt, Bob Tougher, Harold Parker, Frank Giebutowski, Allan Bailey, Stan Stevens and Bob Moholland.

Staff present: Town Manager Dave W. Owen, Finance Director Pete Chamberlin, and Amelia Capone-Muccio Recording Secretary.

Chairman MacDonald opened the meeting at 6:30 PM. He read each of the articles presented.

Warrant Article Review

➤ **ARTICLE : Structural Repairs at the Public Safety Building**

To see whether the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars (**\$350,000**) to perform structural repairs and related improvements to the Apparatus Garage at the Public Safety Building to be funded as follows: **\$132,892** of such sum to come from the proceeds of bonds or notes issued by the Town under compliance with the terms of the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33; **\$123,114** of such sum to come from the unexpended proceeds of bonds previously authorized by the Town for the completed Smith River Stream Bank Stabilization Project under Article 15 of the warrant for the Town's 2010 annual meeting (such use of excess proceeds being permitted by RSA 33:3-a(II)); and **\$93,994** to be transferred from the balance from the Public Safety Building Capital Reserve Fund, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest, maturity and other terms for this purpose. Completion of this project is intended to extend the life of the Apparatus Garage at the Public Safety Building for at least another ten years and to address deficiencies identified in the Building Evaluation Report in 2010.

Mr. Owen stated that although the total cost is \$350, 000, the town only needs to raise \$132,892 in new funds. He noted that he did verify with bond counsel that the funds from the other projects could be used.

Chairman MacDonald questioned if the Smith River Stream Bank project was done.

Mr. Ford replied that it has been completed, but was done considerably under budget. The low bid contractor already had the rip-rap available to do the project and a lot of the engineering was done by him. He explained in reference to the article that the Public Safety building was identified in the report done by Bergeron as a building with deficiencies. He stated in addition to structural issues that need to be addressed, the building also needs a new roof. He explained in order to keep the cost low for this project they are doing a Construction Management project with CCI.

Chairman MacDonald questioned if the building repairs were covered by the insurance when it was damaged.

Mr. Owen replied yes that initial repair was paid by the insurance.

Mr. Burt stated that the roof was replaced about eight to ten years ago.

Mr. Ford agreed it was, but it is leaking and needs to be replaced again.

Chairman MacDonald questioned why they are not bidding the project.

Mr. Ford replied the Board of Selectmen chose a construction management project in order to save money on engineering costs.

Mr. Parker questioned the buildings useful life.

Mr. Ford replied the intent of the repairs is to get another ten years out of the building.

Chairman MacDonald questioned how long the repairs would take.

Mr. Ford replied that construction would start in late spring and the project should be completed by the end of summer.

Mr. Black questioned the issues with sinking in that parking lot.

Mr. Ford replied that the foundation seems solid, but the biggest issue is the back wall.

Mr. Burt questioned where the funds of \$123,114 are sitting.

Mr. Chamberlin replied in the general fund.

Mr. Burt expressed his concern that using those funds will exasperate the problem regarding the debt from the sewer fund.

Bob Tougher moved the Budget Committee to recommend the Warrant Article for improvements to the Public Safety Building. Allan Bailey seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Tougher stated that as a member of the CIP Committee they discussed the request of the Fire Department for complete repairs to the building, but with all the combine requests they were looking at \$14 million dollars in repairs including the Town Hall and Library upgrades. He stated the Committee felt doing this repair this way would take care of the necessary needs of the building to carry them to 2020.

Members voted, being all in favor, the motion passed. (9-0)

➤ ARTICLE : Acquisition of Property at 255 South Main Street

To see whether the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred sixty thousand dollars (**\$160,000**) **for the purpose of acquiring for general government use the property at 255 South Main Street, Tax Map 231, Lot 59, (the former Bun McBride residence) directly adjacent to the Wolfeboro Public Library and the Public Safety Building** and demolishing or removing the buildings on the site, all for purposes of consolidating the Town's holdings at its South Main Street campus, and to authorize the Selectmen to purchase said property. Further, to authorize the issuance of \$160,000 of bonds or notes for these purposes in accordance with RSA Chapter 33, Municipal Finance Act, and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest, maturity, and other terms for this purpose, and to further raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand eight hundred fifty-three dollars (\$2,853) for the payment of interest on any notes issue in anticipation of such bonds that is payable in 2012.

Mr. Owen stated that after Bun McBride's passing the town approached the executor regarding purchasing the property and the agreed purchase price is \$148,000. The remainder of the funds will be used for removal or demolishing the house. He stated his estimate for demolishing is based on what the Library had spent to demolish the Ida Glidden lot.

Allan Bailey moved the Budget Committee to recommend the Warrant Article for the purchase of 255 South Main Street. John Burt seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Giebutowski questioned if they plan to have changes to the property or remove it.

Mr. Owen replied that the Board of Selectmen had look into seeing if it would be a suitable place for office space if needed for informational purposes.

Mr. Tougher stated the intent would be to remove the property to expand the Public Safety Building lot for entrance and existing of the vehicles.

Members voted, being all in favor, the motion passed. (9-0)

➤ **ARTICLE : Wastewater Facility Upgrades**

To see whether the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty Thousand dollars **(\$180,000) to construct improvements to the Town's Wastewater Treatment Facility and Effluent Spray system**, and further to authorize the issuance of not more than one hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000) of bonds or notes for this purpose in accordance with RSA Chapter 33, Municipal Finance Act, such sum to be reduced by any federal, state, or private funds made available therefore, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest, maturity and other terms for this purpose, **and further to raise and appropriate the sum of up to Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500) for the payment of interest on any notes issued in anticipation of such bonds that is payable in 20012.**

Mr. Owen clarified the \$180,000 would come from the general fund, not the sewer fund.

Mr. Ford stated that the Wastewater Treatment plant was built in 1973 and the first review of the building determined it need replacement, but in 2007 they decided to make some upgrades with a phased approach. This project would upgrade the HVAC system and automate the effluent spray system. He explained that due to some unexpected problems with the RIB site, they have had the need to bring back up some of the spray area and by automating the system they can eliminate the need for man power to turn the system on and off.

Mr. Bailey questioned if they will have any recourse from the design failure.

Mr. Ford replied the town has hired an attorney to review the damages.

Mr. Giebutowski questioned the breakeven point for the manual labor vs. the automation.

Mr. Ford replied he would need to hire a person part-time to run the system.

Allan Bailey moved the Budget Committee to recommend the Warrant Article for the Wastewater Facility Upgrades. Bob Tougher seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Black questioned the damages and if they have stabilized and are they going to need to spray more.

Mr. Ford replied the automation will help them to reduce the infiltration and it maybe needed for the long term.

Mr. Giebutowski stated he calculates a four year payback on the \$90,000. He questioned other alternatives.

Mr. Ford replied they do not have any other alternatives at this point and the need to have a solution to the problem.

Mr. Burt questioned the anticipated annual costs of that facility.

Mr. Ford replied he does not have a breakdown, but he could get it.

Mr. Burt questioned why they are bonding something of this size and he questioned the total debt of the town at this time.

Pete Chamberlin replied \$30 million.

Mr. Burt stated that number is getting larger every year and this is a maintenance item.

Mr. Owen stated the Board of Selectmen's concern was the tax rate and that this project is has at least a 10 year life expectancy and qualifies for bonding.

Mr. Burt replied he is concerned about the debt of the town.

Mr. Black questioned why this is not grouped with other building upgrade articles.

Mr. Ford replied the theory was to put the two projects for this facility together.

Mr. Tougher questioned if there is a more accurate way to dispose of waste water.

Mr. Ford replied that purpose of the system it to eliminate paying someone overtime to run it.

Mr. Bailey questioned the life expectancy of the controls.

Mr. Ford replied 15-20 years.

Members voted, Frank Gibentowski, Harold Parker and John Burt-opposed and all others in favor, the motion passed. (6-3)

➤ ARTICLE : Downtown Streets Upgrade--Phase 3

To see whether the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars (**\$750,000**) to construct **Phase 3 of drainage, road and sidewalk upgrades on Lehner and Union Streets, including ADA compliant parking spaces for the Community Center**, and to authorize the issuance of not more than seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) of bonds or notes for these purposes in accordance with RSA Chapter 33, Municipal Finance Act, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest, maturity and other terms for this purpose, **and further to raise and appropriate the sum of up to**

Three Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$3,100) for the payment of interest on any notes issued in anticipation of such bonds that is payable in 2012.

Mr. Owen stated this article is currently out to bid with bids due on January 9th at which time will provide them with a firm cost. The Board of Selectmen are planning to hold a public hearing after the bids come in to adjust the price and he suggests the Budget Committee hold their public hearing following the Board's on January 11, 2012.

Chairman MacDonald replied that won't work, he prefers to have all the information provided before the public hearing.

Mr. Ford stated that the articles can be adjusted at the Deliberative Session as well. He explained this is a multi-phased project that started in 2007 in order to have less of an impact on the taxpayers. He reviewed a map of the area showing location of the improvements.

Mr. Burt questioned phase two and three when they would be done.

Mr. Ford replied phase two will be complete in 2012 and three will be complete in 2013.

Mr. Owen stated that last day they can hold a public hearing on Warrant Articles is January 17th.

Chairman MacDonald stated the Budget Committee will change their public hearing to January 12th and 13th at 7 PM.

➤ **ARTICLE—Construct Glendon Street Parking Lot**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of three hundred thousand dollars (**\$300,000**) **to construct a new municipal parking lot** on the property acquired in 2009 for that purpose adjacent to the existing Glendon Street parking lot, **and to improve the existing Glendon Street parking lot**, all of which will provide a larger and improved facility for off-street parking, and further to authorize the issuance of not more than three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) of bonds or notes for this purpose in accordance with RSA Chapter 33, Municipal Finance Act, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest, maturity, and other terms for this purpose.

Mr. Ford stated that the town received the approval to buy the lot to increase parking and he reviewed the details of the upgrades on a map of the area. This project is also out to bid with bids due on January 9th.

Mr. Bailey questioned if they have any problems with the sites.

Mr. Ford replied it has ground water problems that are monitored and that DES would prefer to seal this lot.

Chairman MacDonald questioned if there will be parking limits.

Mr. Owen replied it will be unlimited parking.

Mr. Ford noted that the island residents have permits for unlimited parking.

Chairman MacDonald questioned the number of new spaces.

Mr. Ford replied 62.

Mr. Owen stated they are hopeful for a lower price when the bids come in.

➤ **ARTICLE : Water Meter Upgrades**

To see whether the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Thousand dollars **(\$500,000) from the Water Fund to upgrade water meters from the manual read system to a radio read system** which will allow monthly reading and billing, and further to authorize the issuance of not more than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) of bonds or notes for this purpose in accordance with RSA Chapter 33, Municipal Finance Act, such sum to be reduced by any federal, state, or private funds made available therefore, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest, maturity and other terms for this purpose, and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand One Hundred Dollars **(\$3,100) for the payment of interest** on any notes issued in anticipation of such bonds that is payable in 2012.

The Town has applied for and received notification of a potential **\$100,000 grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES)** in the form of “loan forgiveness” if project is approved by Town in 2012.

Mr. Bailey questioned the breakdown of cost on each meter and mandating the customer to pay that.

Mr. Ford replied that the replacement has been incorporated into the user rates and by doing the project this way they will receive a loan forgiveness grant.

Mr. Giebutowski questioned the “potential”.

Mr. Ford replied that nothing is guaranteed, but they are top on the list for receiving this grant.

Mr. Gibestowski questioned if any of the funds will come from the general fund and questioned the billing costs.

Mr. Owen replied the billing is covered in the administration allocation.

Mr. Bailey stated they used to base the cost on the number of faucets in the home and if they could pro-rate the cost based on the number of faucets.

Mr. Ford replied they based the cost on use.

Mr. Tougher noted the CIP Committee had recommended this upgrade for 2013 until they became aware of the grant funding. He noted that by doing this upgrade they can also reduce the need for man power and switching to monthly billing will help detect leaks quicker.

Mr. Black questioned why DES has a grant for this project.

Mr. Ford replied it is a green project to help reduce energy costs.

Mr. Parker questioned if DES has the money for this in the budget.

Mr. Ford replied they do.

Chairman MacDonald questioned the upgrade to the electric meters.

Mr. Owen replied they will be upgraded, but not this year.

Mr. Burt questioned the need to read the meters as often.

Sarah Silk stated that they are currently changing 100 meters a year that have failed.

Mr. Ford stated that according to the consultant, they will see a payback in two to three years due to loss revenue of failed meters.

Mr. Giebutowski questioned if he has a written analysis of the payback.

Mr. Ford replied he can provide such.

Mr. Giebutowski questioned the reduction in staff.

Mr. Ford replied they would not need to go house to house anymore they would do it with radio reads and only need to be in the proximity of the meter.

Mr. Moholland questioned why they wouldn't only read the meters every six months like they do in places like Farmington.

Mr. Burt questioned the sillcock meters.

Mr. Ford replied that he does not know if those would be replaced, but would check into it.

Mr. Burt stated he feels they should defer discussion on this article until they get more information.

Allan Bailey moved the Budget Committee to recommend the Warrant Article for the water meter upgrades. Bob Tougher seconded. John Burt moved to amend the motion to defer discussion on this article until December 28, 2012. Bob Moholland seconded. Members voted, Bob Tougher opposed and being all others in favor, the motion passed.

➤ **ARTICLE : Upgrade Town Roads**

To see whether the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars (**\$550,000**) for upgrading Town roads and drainage systems.

Mr. Ford stated the upgrade for roads was recommended at \$750,000, but was reduced to \$550,000 by the Board of Selectmen to help keep the tax rate down.

Scott Ducharme questioned why the town spends so much time on the catch basins and that putting them every fifty feet seems ridiculous and why they repair pot holes with one shovel full rather than five.

Chairman MacDonald replied those are comments for the Town Manager or the Board of Selectmen.

Scott Ducharme stated they should fix the roads, but they don't. He stated Beach Pond road is so bad he goes all the way to Tuftonboro to avoid driving on it to Hidden Valley. He stated he tried to tell the Public Works Director about it, but they had a heated discussion. There are plenty of contractors that can help with projects, but he doesn't put them out to bid.

Chairman MacDonald replied he does appreciate the concerns, but they are comments for the Town Manager or the Board of Selectmen, their only job is to review the budget proposals.

Scott Ducharme stated the Highway Maintenance Department needs to be doing more maintenance and it shouldn't be his job to Police the roads. He calls to complain and they hate him for it.

Mr. Black questioned if there is a priority list for the roads.

Mr. Ford replied that in 2009 they did a road service management plan and the roads are done based on their needs, but it can get changed based on storm damage etc.

Harold Parker moved the Budget Committee to recommend the Warrant Article for Upgrades to Town Roads. Bob Tougher seconded. Members voted and being all in favor, the motion passed. (9-0)

➤ **ARTICLE: Drinking Water Treatment Facility Chemical Feed System Upgrades**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Thousand dollars **(\$120,000) from the Water Fund to construct improvements to the Town's Drinking Water Treatment Facility Chemical Feed system**, and to fund this project from the unrestricted fund balance of the Water Fund. **This project will have no impact to the tax rate or the water user rates.**

Allan Bailey moved the Budget Committee to recommend the Warrant Article for Drinking Water Treatment Facility Chemical Feed System Upgrades. Stan Stevens seconded. Members voted and being all in favor, the motion passed. (9-0)

➤ **ARTICLE : Drinking Water Treatment Plant Energy Efficiency Upgrades**

To see whether the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars **(\$150,000) from the Water Fund to construct energy efficiency upgrades to include a new HVAC system, increased insulation and a new roof at the Town's Drinking Water Treatment Plant facility**, and to fund this project from the unrestricted fund balance of the Water Fund. **This project will have no impact on the tax rate or the water user rates.**

Harold Parker moved the Budget Committee to recommend the Warrant Article for Drinking Water Treatment Facility Plant Energy Efficiency Upgrades. Allan Bailey seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Giebutowski questioned if this was recommended by the Energy Committee.

Mr. Ford replied yes this heating system needs replacement and they are hopeful to get some grant funding for it.

Mr. Giebutowski stated this project has a good payback and a good project to take on. He questioned the effect on the rates.

Mr. Owen replied they have a \$2 million dollar balance and will use the surplus.

Mr. Giebutowski questioned if that is an accurate statement.

Mr. Owen replied they are not proposing to increase rates to pay for it and it is not on the tax rate.

Members voted and being all in favor, the motion passed. (9-0)

➤ **ARTICLE : Public Works Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Account**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand dollars **(\$155,000) to be transferred to the existing Public Works Vehicle & Equipment Capital**

Reserve Account, to be under the custody of the Trustees of Trust Funds. The Selectmen have been designated as agents to expend this Capital Reserve Account.

Mr. Burt stated this fund covers the Highway Department and the Solid Waste Facility, but not the Garage specifically.

Mr. Owen replied that he believes it covers the Highway Division.

Mr. Burt stated that it doesn't say garage. He questioned the funds the Solid Waste bought the backhoe with.

Mr. Ford replied that came from Capital Outlay.

Mr. Burt questioned why they did not take it from the reserves.

Linda Murray stated they use the money for larger equipment purchases.

Mr. Burt stated he was surprised based on what the original Warrant Article said.

Mr. Owen replied they didn't want to increase the tax rate.

Allan Bailey moved the Budget Committee to recommend the Warrant Article for the Public Works Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve. Bob Tougher seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Burt questioned if they put \$155,000 in each year.

Linda Murray replied yes and it goes up each year.

Members voted, John Burt-abstained and being all in favor, the motion passed. (8-0)

➤ **ARTICLE : Develop Asset Management Program**

To see whether the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand dollars (**\$50,000**) to fund the development of a long term, sustainable Asset Management Plan (AMP) which will inventory and assess all Town owned assets and assist in prioritizing and optimizing investments in maintenance and capital projects. **The project may take up to 5 years to complete** and fully implement, this authorization is for the first year funding, future funding will be included in the Operations budget going forward.

Mr. Ford stated that town lacks a long term plan and needs to move away from crisis planning. The Board of Selectmen and the CIP Committee are looking to develop a plan for the entire town infrastructure which consists of 48 buildings. This funding is for a small portion to start up the project, there would be a continually need to fund this each year in order to get the return investment. He stated they will begin with a pilot program with the Department Heads.

Mr. Burt stated this program will take 3-4 years to put together and questioned the annual maintenance cost.

Mr. Ford stated it will be \$50,000 for the initial base and the town can expect to fund \$50,000 each year for five years and that may increase if they don't have internal staff to manage it. He stated it is a massive program that they will need to continue to fund.

Mr. Parker stated they can do this unless all the Department Heads cooperate with it.

Mr. Ford replied it will fail if they are not all on board with it and he believes he has the support of all the department heads.

Mr. Tougher questioned who would manage it.

Mr. Ford replied probably himself; everyone has a full plate, but could make time to so they don't have to add staff.

Mr. Giebutowski questioned if the software would tie in to the GIS system.

Mr. Ford replied this money does not fund the software; they would use excel at this time.

Mr. Giebutowski replied excel is not the way to do this, it should be tied with the GIS system.

Mr. Black questioned if any other communities have this program.

Mr. Ford replied that Somersworth is the only community with the most success.

Chairman MacDonald questioned if this could be put off for a year.

Mr. Ford replied it could.

Mr. Burt stated this will take up a lot of his time and he doesn't see how this will help other departments like the Town Clerk and the computer system won't support it at this time.

Mr. Ford replied the software would sit with the consultant and we would pay for seats to it.

Allan Bailey moved the Budget Committee to recommend the Warrant Article for the Asset Management Plan. Being no second, the motion failed.

John MacDonald moved the Budget Committee to not recommend the Warrant Article for the Asset Management Plan. John Burt seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Tougher stated the CIP Committee never really got into a lot of discussion on this request and he feels it seems like an intangible thing and that we are not really big enough for this. He feels they could put it off for another year.

Allan Bailey feels the concept makes a lot of sense.

Mr. Giebutowski replied he feels they should pursue this but they don't have the plan to pursue it effectively.

Members voted, Allan Bailey-opposed and all others in favor, the motion passed. (8-0)

➤ Article : Public Safety Radio Communications Equipment

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand dollars (**\$75,000**) for the purpose of **acquiring and installing radio repeaters, antennae, and associated equipment on the existing telecommunications tower on Bennett Hill, pursuant to a no-cost lease agreement with the property owner. Further, to rescind the balance (\$49,607.75) of the appropriation made under Article 19 of the 2011 Town Warrant, which appropriated funds to build a 100' radio transmission**

tower at the Public Safety Building, which proved to be infeasible. This is intended to eliminate current dead zones in emergency radio dispatch reception and communications in Wolfeboro and to insure the safety and efficiency of communications with Police, Fire, DPW, Parks & Recreation, and Electric Department personnel.

Harold Parker moved the Budget Committee to recommend the Public Safety Radio Communications Equipment Warrant Article. Stan Stevens seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Suzanne Ryan questioned why they would use the funds already available before they lapse and why they couldn't just encumber it and change the purpose.

Mr. Owen replied they are changing the process they have done in the past of bonding projects before they are encumbered. They had it reviewed by Town Counsel who advised they could do it this way.

Members voted and being all in favor the motion passed. (9-0)

➤ **ARTICLE : Fire Trucks and Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve Account**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Six Hundred dollars (**\$175,600**) to be transferred to the existing **Fire Trucks and Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve Account**, to be under the custody of the Trustees of Trust Funds. The Selectmen have been designated agents to expend this Capital Reserve Account.

John Burt moved the Budget Committee to recommend the Warrant Article for the Fire Trucks and Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve Account. Bob Tougher seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Burt questioned if the amount is consistent.

Mr. Owen replied it is level funded.

Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed. (9-0)

➤ **ARTICLE : Police Union Contract Agreement**

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town and Local #39 of the New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA) which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at current staffing levels:

<u>Year</u>		<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2012	Salaries	\$10,920
	Benefits	<u>\$ 9,487</u>
	Total 2012	\$20,407

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$20,407** for the upcoming fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year.

Stan Stevens moved the Budget Committee recommend the Police Union Contract Warrant Article. Bob Tougher seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Chairman MacDonald questioned if they are getting more than the other employees.

Mr. Owen replied no, they didn't get a raise last year, only a stipend that was not added to their base salary.

Chairman MacDonald questioned if this was included in the budget they received.

Mr. Owen replied it was not.

Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed. (9-0)

➤ ARTICLE : Town Hall Repairs and Improvements

To see whether the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thousand dollars (\$200,000) **for the purpose of making repairs and improvements to the Brewster Memorial Hall (Town Hall)** to include, but not limited to, repairs to the building, life safety code improvements, energy efficiency measures, and improvements to the working environment of town employees, and other such work as prioritized by the Board of Selectmen, such sum to be in addition to any federal, state, or private funds made available therefor.

Mr. Owen stated that since the \$4 million dollar proposal failed last year, the Board of Selectmen have struggled with where to go with this project. They have looked at plans to phase the project and even break it up into sections include phasing the first floor, all of which do not come to estimates less that \$2 million dollars. Given the Board's concern about the tax rate, they have decided not to pursue a renovation article and go with a repair article similar to the \$110,000 dollars funded for repairs a few years ago.

Mr. Burt questioned the estimate details.

Mr. Owen replied they did ask CCI for an estimate of needed repairs, but the cost estimate is higher than they were looking for. He stated this article is still a work in progress and the Board was looking to make repairs in the range of \$200,000.

Mr. Burt stated that will not covering a heating system.

Mr. Owen replied that Mr. Houseman is still working out the details.

Linda Murray stated that the Board was not satisfied with the estimate from CCI and sent it back to staff for further clarity and they have not had a chance to review it yet.

Scott Ducharme questioned why they would not do the project in piece meal; it may take longer, but would be better for the taxpayers.

Mr. Owen replied basically that is the approach they are taking.

Allan Bailey moved the Budget Committee to recommend the Warrant Article for the repairs to Town Hall at \$200,000. Harold Parker seconded. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed. (9-0)

➤ Article: Establish Recreation Revolving Fund

To see if the town will vote to establish a Recreation Revolving Fund pursuant to RSA Chapter 35-B: 2. The **money received from fees and/or charges for self-sustaining recreational programs** established by the Wolfeboro Parks and Recreation Department **and donations to it shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year**, and shall not be considered to be part of the Town's general fund unreserved fund balance. Correspondingly, **expenditures related to these programs will not be included in the Town's Operating Budget** and will be paid from the Revolving Fund. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the Board of Selectmen (no further legislative body approval required). These funds may be expended only for recreation purposes as stated in RSA 35-B, and no expenditure shall be made in such a way as to require the expenditure of other funds that have not been appropriated for that purpose.

Suzanne Ryan stated that the Budget Committee doesn't recommend non-money Warrant Articles.

Chairman MacDonald replied the article will have a fiscal impact on the budget and it deals with appropriations.

Mrs. Ryan stated there is no dollar amount in the article.

Chairman MacDonald replied it affects the budget and takes the money out.

Mr. Owen clarified it will reduce the operating budget.

Chairman MacDonald read RSA 35:B1, which is referenced in RSA 35:B2.

Mr. Owen stated that he attached the model supplied by DRA.

Linda Murray stated that the purpose of the article is to take the money from the operating budget that pays for itself, it is meant as a pass through with no impact on the operating budget.

Mr. Owen stated it is limited to self-sufficient programs; it will not be used for purchasing land or anything of that nature.

Chairman MacDonald clarified it is strictly a book keeping issue.

Mr. Owen replied it is only for programs that are self-sufficient.

Being no further business before the Budget Committee, Chairman MacDonald entertained a motion to adjourn.

John Burt moved the Budget Committee to adjourn at 9:14 PM. Harold Parker seconded. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.