

BUDGET COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 12, 2018

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

The Public Hearing for the 2018 proposed budget was called to order at 7:00 p.m., and roll was called.

Budget members present: Ken Jacques, Bryan O'Day, Jeff Milne, Tim Cook, B Manning, Justin Hastings, Darrin Patten, and Tamara Butcher. Brian Putney absent.

Selectman Dick Hendl, and Road Agent Peter Abair were also present.

Minutes of January 29, 2018: Jeff moved to approve as written, seconded by Tim. Darrin abstained as he was not present at the January 29 meeting. All others voted in favor.

The Board discussed paving plans with Peter. A few different scenarios had been presented through the budgeting process. Pete plans to repave the paved portion of Philbrick Hill Road this year. The cost for that is \$60,000. He anticipates paving Nichols Hill Road next year which is estimated at about \$60,000. He has put \$5,000 in this year's budget to prep Nichols Hill, removing rocks and replacing culverts, and any other areas that may need shimming. The Board discussed doing more reclamation work on bad sections of roads, so as not to just be repaving over and over bad roads. They reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan and discussed whether there should be an increased amount appropriated for roads so this could be accomplished. This would be a whole different philosophy from what has been happening. The Board discussed the possibility of increasing appropriations for road work through a warrant article, or using fund balance to offset taxes. The Selectmen have done a good job at using fund balance to keep taxes level when they can. The Board agreed to not make changes to the paving budget. Pete does anticipate repaving Fisher Corner Road, but he is waiting to see what the State does when they replace the culverts at the intersection with Georges Mills Road.

The Board was in favor of proposing the appropriation for the site prep for future sand shed as a warrant article. This will be funded through the Unreserved Fund Balance.

The Board reviewed the warrant article for the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Department. The appropriation will be funded with a three year note, and will require a 2/3 majority vote because of the long-term financing.

Proposed Warrant Articles:

Article 03: Replacement of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$99,000 (gross budget) to replace Self Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Department; and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$99,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA

33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon.

The Selectmen and Budget Committee Recommend this Article.

2/3 ballot vote required.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 04: Sand Shed Site Preparation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$43,000 for the purpose of site preparation for future sand shed replacement and expanded exterior storage area. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (d) and RSA 32:7 V. This appropriation to come from the unreserved fund balance with no amount to be raised through taxation. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.

Majority vote required

☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 05: Reshingle and repair Town Hall Roof

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$39,000 for the purpose of reshingling and related repairs to the Town Meetinghouse Roof. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (d) and RSA 32:7 V. Said appropriation to come from the Unreserved Fund Balance, with no amount to be raised through taxation. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.

Majority vote required.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 06: Purchase of a Wood Chipper

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of purchasing a wood chipper for the Highway Department. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the purchase is completed or by December 31, 2021, whichever is sooner. This appropriation to come from the Unreserved Fund Balance, with no amount to be raised through taxation. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.

Majority vote required.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 07: Old Home Day Expendable Trust

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,034.00 for the purpose of adding to the Old Home Day Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (d) and RSA 32:7 V. Said amount to come from the Unreserved Fund Balance and represents proceeds and donations raised in 2017; No amount to come from taxation. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.

Majority vote required.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 08: Sale of Municipal Property

To see if the Town will vote to grant authorization to the Board of Selectmen to sell or otherwise convey, "as justice may require" a parcel of land in Eastman located on Winding Wood Road, Tax Map 31; Lot 272-512. Said parcel was deeded to the Town by Quitclaim Deed from the Controlled Environment Corporation, recorded at the Sullivan County Registry of Deeds on August 14, 1974, Volume 546, Page 171. This parcel was not taken through taxation and therefore the Selectmen must seek town meeting approval to divest of the property. The Selectmen Recommend this Article. Majority vote required.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 09: General Municipal Operations

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the BUDGET COMMITTEE'S recommended amount of 1,299,994.00 for general municipal operations.
This article does not include special or individual articles addressed.
Majority vote required

☐ Yes ☐ No

The Board agreed articles 4, 5, and 6, made good use of the Unreserved Fund Balance.
The current Fund Balance is \$541,708. Total expenditures proposed from the fund balance is \$106,034.00.

The proposed operating budget was reviewed. Darrin moved to recommend and approve the Article 9, as proposed, seconded by Jeff and unanimously approved.

Motion made by Darrin to recommend and approve warrant articles 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Motion seconded by Jeff and unanimously approved.

The Board reviewed estimated revenue and agreed their estimates would be the same as the Selectboard's.

The Public Hearing was closed, and the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts,
Administrative Assistant