

**TOWN OF WEBSTER**  
*Office of Selectmen*  
945 Battle Street/Rte. 127  
Webster, NH 03303

Webster Board of Selectmen's Meeting – February 9, 2010

The Public Hearing for the proposed 2010 Budget and Warrant held pursuant to RSA 32:5 I was hosted by the Daniel Webster Grange.

Grange Member Dorothy Haskins welcomed all to this Public Hearing.

Selectmen Present: Chairman George Hashem, Selectman Thomas Mullins and Selectman David Klumb, Administrative Assistant Judith Jones, Financial Administrator Wendy Pinkham and approximately 75 townspeople.

7:02 P.M. Chairman Mullins opened the Public Hearing. He read Warrant Articles 1 through 4. Selectman Klumb read Articles 5 and 6. Article 6 was for the Police Department and generated a lively discussion by many residents. Bruce Johnson inquired as to how the Board was prepared to support the article should a reduction be recommended. Chairman Mullins advised that the Board plans to strongly support the entire Police Department article, noting that an extraordinary amount of time and effort went into its preparation. George Cummings said that the proposed Police budget appears to be 10% less than last year's proposed budget. Chairman Mullins agreed that it was, but not 10% less than what was actually voted. Heidi Pelchat inquired as to why the line items were broken out regarding salary, when no other departments were broken out in this manner. After much discussion between the Board and other residents, the decision was to treat all departments the same, without any breakdown of salary. It was realized that the Police Chief is appointed by the Board of Selectmen and that the Chief in turn deals with the remainder of the budget as he sees fit. It was also noted that all Town employee's wages are public information. It was pointed out that should a single line be zeroed out, then the Board has no authority to fund that line this year. Chairman Mullins pointed out that the decision to separate out the Police and Fire Departments was made, but that the Board was not looking for a reduction in Public Safety. Discussion continued regarding other options and recommendations. Don Gross then introduced newly appointed Chief Robert Dupuis, who will be part-time and will work an average of 20 hours per week. Mr. Gross listed some of Chief Dupuis' qualifications and encouraged all to support the new Chief and the budget.

The Board continued with the reading of the Warrant. The Board responded to questions regarding what the CAP program provided; how the Library budget was funded; why funds are being requested for the Capital Reserve for the future purchase of a cruiser even though there is an article to purchase a new cruiser this year; why there is an expendable trust for police vehicle maintenance; and how the Welfare budget is overseen and utilized.

Chairman Mullins explained the purpose of Article 16, whereby Hopkinton and Webster, if approved, will authorize the Board(s) to withdraw from the Concord Regional Solid Waste/Resource Recovery Cooperative and enter into a new contract for the removal and disposal of solid waste. He advised that he would be glad to discuss the issue with anyone interested. Questions and concerns were expressed over whether the Town had coordinated with Hopkinton. Both Towns have the same article on the Warrant, but either Town could move forward independently if necessary and were prepared to do so should the Article pass. Chairman Mullins gave a brief explanation of how the towns were monetarily tied to the Coop and how Wheelabrator was tied in.

Chairman Mullins explained the purpose of Article 17 related to the Town of Hopkinton bonding for the construction and engineering of wells to connect homes in the landfill area. There were many questions as to why the towns were doing this and what alternatives and options were being considered, including a suggestion that the towns do nothing. Chairman Mullins indicated that the latter was not a viable option and assured all that the towns were doing their best to keep the cost of the project to a minimum.

The remaining articles were read with no discussion or comments.

Any attending candidates were asked to introduce themselves. Selectman Candidate George Cummings introduced himself and gave a brief history of his residency in Webster as well as some of his qualifications. Selectman Mullins introduced himself and gave a brief history of what he has done to further his knowledge of town government and listed some of the Boards and Committees on which he has served.

8:45 P.M. The meeting adjourned.

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George K. Hashem

Thomas S. Mullins

David E. Klumb

BOS/jj