

**Office of Select Board
945 Battle Street/Rte. 127
Webster, NH 03303**

7:00 pm – Select Board’s Meeting – February 11, 2014 Public Hearing for 2014 Budget

Select Board present: Chairman Bruce Johnson, Selectman Fanjoy and Selectman Mason Donovan. The meeting was opened by Chairman Johnson.

Selectman Donovan led the “Pledge of Allegiance”, followed by a welcome from Grange Member Dot Haskins.

Moderator Robert Pearson III facilitated the meeting in his capacity as moderator.

Selectman Fanjoy requested that the Fire Chief be allowed to address Article 8 related to the necessary safety improvements needed at the Public Safety Building. He explained the issues and then the bids received, one of which was engineer approved; the other is not, though he expects an engineered bid before Town Meeting. He explained the improvements proposed, one of which is for an 18” overhang and the other a 4’ supported overhang, necessary as the building was not designed for this climate and snow load. Robert Lake inquired as to why the bid was not open to local contractors. After discussion he was told that the opportunity to bid was still available, but there were no plans available. Mr. Lake may meet with Chief Wolinski to see what is needed. Later there was much discussion on any recourse available against the original builder. The Board will look into this.

Moderator Pearson moved onto the Zoning Ordinances proposed in the Warrant. As commented, there was a lot of information out and it was not necessary for him to read them tonight.

Moderator Pearson then moved on to Article 6, which was a new single article for the operating budget as opposed to individual warrant articles. There was discussion on the rationale as to whether the following articles would then not be necessary, why the change, and how amendments could be made and applied to this one warrant article. Chairman Johnson stated that some articles that have normally been separate articles in the past are now being voted upon as one operating budget article. This is recommended by Town Counsel and the NH Municipal Association, and is now supported by DRA. He also stated that this is what most towns in the State of NH do. When requested to explain the increases, Chairman Johnson did so. Discussion continued. Because the Fire Department is part of the operating budget, Chief Wolinski addressed this line item and continued at this time to address Article 13, which is to vote to organize the Fire Department pursuant to RSA 154:1 I(a) explaining that this needed to be done as no past records could be found of any vote previously taken, indicating that this would not mean any changes. Road Agent Emmett Bean spoke on the Highway Budget increase. Selectman Donovan noted the increase in health insurance. Discussion continued regarding other increases in the budget, what any amendments or negative votes could mean to the passage of this article, whether the Select Board still had control over fund transfers within the budget, etc. The Board clarified how amendments could be made by making an amendment to change one specific line item, having that seconded, then vote on the amendment, thereby changing the total by only that amount as may be voted.

Article 7 for Road Preservation – Selectman Donovan noted this was the same amount as 2013. There were questions on what was to be preserved.

Sue Roberts inquired about any possible recourse available to the Town regarding the construction of the Public Safety Building as it had been noted that the building was not constructed for this climate. Discussion ensued. Selectman Donovan advised that the Board was still investigating the possibility.

Article 9 for a pellet boiler for the Town Hall – Energy Committee Chairman Bender spoke about the efficiency of the unit, monetary advantage, physical placement, the auto feed of the pellets, the maintenance needed, payback period and the mandatory grant application to be approved prior to the project moving forward. He explained that the cost would now be decreased to \$43,000 after a mandatory bid meeting earlier tonight, where one bid was received. The plan is to keep the existing two furnaces as backup, but not to replace one should it quit. David Klumb inquired as to whether the Board had considered a Geothermal Unit, which he recommends. This alternative was briefly discussed.

Article 10 for the Pillsbury Lake Dam assistance generated no discussion.

Article 11 for the Capital Reserve Funds – Some of the purposes, amounts, goals and balances were discussed briefly. There was discussion on the possibility of voting to use some of these funds towards specific expenditures, i.e. the Public Safety Building.

Article 12 for the Expendable Trust Funds generate – No discussion.

Article 13 for the organization of the Fire Department – Selectman Donovan advised that no paperwork on any previous Town vote could be found, so there was a need to take a vote.

Article 14 to change the purpose of the Fire Truck Capital Reserve to read Emergency Apparatus – Discussed the reason for this requested change.

Article 15 to appoint the Select Board and Road Agent as agents to expend from the Highway Land/Building Capital Reserve Fund – Selectman Fanjoy explained that the change was to allow expenditure of the funds should an opportunity were to arise to purchase land.

Article 16 to change the purpose of the Tri-Centennial Committee Capital Reserve to Bi-Centennial Capital Reserve – This was proposed so the fund would be available for the Bi-Centennial.

B. J. Johnson

R. E. Fanjoy

M. W. Donovan

Article 17 to allow for the sale of Town owned property – There was discussion regarding the lots being sold in blocks. Selectman Donovan advised that this was to keep them together and conserve development in the District

Article 18 to allow for the preservation of Town-owned lots in perpetuity as recommended by the Conservation Commission – There was clarification of the location of the lots.

Article 19 was a petition article regarding getting big money out of politics. Sally Embley explained a bit about the petition with no other discussion. This concluded the budget and Warrant.

Mr. Klumb advised that folks take a close look at the Zoning Amendments being proposed and the wording. Discussion ensued on commercial building fees and dwelling fees. Selectman Donovan assured that the commercial uses were subject to an exaction fee and dwellings to an impact fee. Discussion ensued on the impact fee and the purpose.

Chairman Johnson closed the hearing. Selectman Fanjoy made a motion to adjourn this meeting; seconded and approved.

9:00 pm Chairman Johnson called the Select Board work session to order for the purpose of going through the Warrant and to vote on each article. The Board discussed each article prior to their vote. Each vote was tallied and will be added to the Warrant before the Town Reports goes to press and the official Warrant is posted for all articles containing an appropriation.

Police Chief Robert Dupuis joined the Board and requested time to address the recent change in the Personnel Policy made on 2/3/14 relative to Holidays. He expressed concerns, as he had listened to the audio tapes of the meeting, indicating comments about Police coverage for the Holidays, hearing that it was his fault that nothing had been done. He noted that the Select Board made the policy, not him, and that the prior Chief did not change it; and that past discussion with the Board showed no interest in changes, but now it has been changed. Selectman Donovan indicated that his point was about the vacation and holiday policy, indicating that the Chief was going to make a policy about vacation time and that the change to the Holiday Policy would give the Chief the opportunity to change this policy within his Department. Chief Dupuis' concern was about the change allowing a Department Head or the Select Board to mandate an employee to work the Holiday. He said this was in violation of his contract that addresses non-interference, and was concerned that the Board could order anyone in the Department to work anytime. Selectman Donovan assured him that it would only be if he were not in his current capacity. The Chief indicated that the new policy was up to interpretation and that another Board may not read it the same way, noting that the violation of contract would not come into effect until it was violated. Chairman Johnson recommended that this be discussed at the next Board meeting for change in wording.

Selectman Donovan requested information regarding the original contract for the PSB, which will be research and discussed at the next meeting.

The Board continued on with discussion and tally votes for the remaining Warrant Articles. Those Articles with no appropriations will be followed by the Board's recommendation without a vote.

9:46 p.m. Selectman Fanjoy made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Selectman Donovan and approved.

Bruce G. Johnson, Chairman
BOS/jj

Roy E. Fanjoy

Mason W. Donovan