

TOWN OF HEBRON
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2016 BUDGET AND WARRANT ARTICLES
JANUARY 19, 2015

PRESENT: Pat Moriarty, John Dunklee, Ellie Lonske, and Karen Corliss, Town Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT: Ron Collins, Bob Brooks, Linda and Phil Kriss, Travis Austin (Police Chief), Mark Coulson, Alison York, Bruce Barnard, Maynard and Sue Young, Don Franklin, Paula Cummings, Bill Powers, George Andrews, Everett Begor, Dick and Joyce Cowern, Casey Kuplin (Highway Supervisor), Tom Gump, Deborah James, Mary Allen, Lee Alexander, Jerry Lauther, Ray Norton,

7:00 P.M. **PUBLIC HEARING ON 2016 BUDGET AND WARRANT ARTICLES:** Chair Moriarty opened the public hearing on the 2016 Budget and Warrant Articles.

WARRANT ARTICLE #1: Chair Moriarty read article #1 to choose all Town Officers for the ensuing year. Chair Moriarty informed the audience that the voting will take place at the Hebron Community Hall on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, but the meeting will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at the Bridgewater-Hebron Village School located at 25 School House Road in Bridgewater.

WARRANT ARTICLE #2: Vice-Chair Dunklee read article #2 proposing to change the elected term of town treasurer to 3 years. Vice-Chair Dunklee noted that the position had become very detailed and required at least a year to learn the required duties.

WARRANT ARTICLE #3: Vice-Chair Dunklee read article #3 to raise and appropriate \$90,000 to remove the existing pavement from Panorama Lane, starting at 47 Panorama Lane, removing rocks protruding through the pavement, install underdrains, install proper base material, and repave with 3” of new pavement. Vice-Chair Dunklee informed the audience that when the road was constructed, the project was not overseen by engineers and the proper base material was not put down allowing for the road to sink and rocks to protrude through the pavement. Casey Kuplin spoke to the article outlining the work to be done on Panorama Lane and noting that Bryant Paving would be repaving the road once the road work was complete. Member Lonske informed the audience that the estimate was less than the warrant article figure, but wanted to ensure that enough funds were available for the project if unknown issues arose during the construction phase.

WARRANT ARTICLE #4: Chair Moriarty read article #4 to raise and appropriate \$80,540 to be added to the following capital reserve funds which had been previously established:

Police	\$5,000
Highway	\$15,000
Fire	\$100
Ambulance	\$20,000
Communications	\$5,000
Assessment Services	\$5,440
Cemetery Tombstones and Fence	\$5,000
Dry Hydrant	\$10,000
Road Emergency Repairs	\$5,000
Culvert Repair & Maintenance	\$5,000
Common Tree Fund	\$5,000

Maynard Young asked the Board why the \$40,000 was not being placed in the Fire Capital Reserve Fund as done in past years. Mr. Young expressed concerns to the Board that with the increasing cost of purchasing fire trucks and the town depositing less funds into the capital reserve fund. The money will not be available again if a new truck were to be purchased in 10 years. Chair Moriarty replied that the Board was comfortable with the amount currently in the fire capital reserve fund and in upcoming years Boards would be adding to the fund. The largest amount is due in 2016 on the lease/purchase payment of the 2015 Fire Truck. The agreement with the Town of Groton to provide ambulance and fire protection had a portion of the new vehicle purchase included in the price which would help keep the tax rate low with the lease/purchase payment for the fire truck. Don Franklin commented that it would be harder to get larger expenditure items approved unless

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most of the funding had already been put away. Vice-Chair Dunklee would like to see the town continue to add \$40,000 annually into the fire capital reserve fund due to the ever increasing price of the fire trucks. Mark Coulson asked the Board why the figures for capital purchases that the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Committee recommended for annual deposits into the capital reserve funds were not listed in the warrant article. George Andrews asked the Board why the amount to be deposited into the Police Capital Reserve Fund was back to \$5,000 when at the 2015 Town Meeting the appropriation was increased to \$6,000. Lee Alexander expressed to the Board that the CIP Committee should be recommending to the Select Board the amounts to be raised each year. Member Lonske replied that the department heads make their budget proposals to the Select Board each year with the request for funds for capital improvement project at that time. The CIP Committee is invited to attend the presentations by the department heads so the committee can obtain necessary information to complete their projections for the future. George Andrews said that the CIP Committee had not submitted recommendations. Bob Brooks asked the Board for the cost of a dry hydrant installation. Vice-Chair Dunklee replied that the cost for the Crescent Lane dry hydrant, including engineering and permitting, was around \$10,000.

WARRANT ARTICLE #5: Member Lonske read article #5 to raise and appropriate \$150,000 to add to the Town Offices Expansion and Refurbishment Fund. Member Lonske informed the audience that currently the fund has \$450,000 for the project. The Hebron Academy Committee had proposed going out for bids on the project in the fall of 2016 and bringing not to exceed figures to the 2017 March Town Meeting.

WARRANT ARTICLE #6: Chair Moriarty read article #6 to raise and appropriate \$67,236 for the purpose of participating in the Pre-Disaster Planning for Historic Properties Project with this amount to be covered by a grant from NH Division of Historical Resources. Ron Collins spoke to the article explaining the purpose of the grant was to prepare a flood study based on the location of historic homes and determine how to protect the properties from natural disasters in the future.

WARRANT ARTICLE #7: Vice-Chair Dunklee read article #7 to raise and appropriate \$11,264 for the Gazebo Programs. Everett Begor spoke to the article explaining the proposed schedule of artists to perform at the gazebo on the Hebron Common in 2016.

WARRANT ARTICLE #8: Chair Moriarty read article #8 to raise and appropriate \$7,500 for perambulating the town line between the Town of Groton and Town of Hebron. Chair Moriarty explained that this is was not completed in 2015 and the funds would now be available until March 1, 2018 to ensure that the project could be completed.

WARRANT ARTICLE #9: Member Lonske read article #9 to raise and appropriate \$2,585 for the purchase of the Atrium Express System for Hebron Library automation. Bill Powers, Library Trustee, informed the audience that this software would allow the Library to catalog books, track usage of books, and improve communication with the State of NH Library. Mr. Powers reported that the research performed on the software by contacting other libraries came back positive as a very user friendly product and that the support on the software was great.

WARRANT ARTICLE #10 and WARRANT ARTICLE #11: Vice-Chair Dunklee read article #10 to discontinue the capital reserve fund entitled "George Road Relocation" and read article #11 to raise and appropriate \$15,536 to be added to the Road Emergency Repairs Capital Reserve Fund. Vice-Chair Dunklee informed the audience that the George Road Relocation project was no longer an option since one of the subdivision properties to be utilized for relocating George Road to the North Shore Road intersection was no longer an option to the Town. Vice-Chair Dunklee reported that the funds in article #11 equal the balance in the George Road Relocation Capital Reserve Fund to be added to the Road Emergency Repairs Capital Reserve Fund which will be used for projects on George Road. One of the projects proposed at this time are guardrails to be added to a section of George Road. Bruce Barnard asked Vice-Chair Dunklee about the easement deed signed by David Jacques for relocating George Road. Vice-Chair Dunklee replied that the town received signed Agreements to Agree from Mr. Jacques and the family members, but not an easement deed.

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WARRANT ARTICLE #12: Chair Moriarty read article #12 to discontinue the capital reserve fund entitled “Charrette Fund”. Chair Moriarty informed the audience this was to close a fund that no longer had a balance and the purpose which the fund was created had been completed.

WARRANT ARTICLE #13: Member Lonske read article #13 to authorize the Heritage Commission to assume the composition and duties of the Historic District Commission pursuant to RSA 674:44-b, III, and to further abolish the Historic District Commission per RSA 673:18, II. Member Lonske informed the audience that state law enables the Heritage Commission to assume the composition and duties of the Historic District Commission and vice versa. Member Lonske noted that it is very difficult to fill two commissions with similar purposes that meet only once a year when the commission has a quorum of members. Ron Collins informed the audience that the town had applied to become a Certified Local Government. Ron Collins noted that the Historic District Commission members and the Heritage Commission members support this merger. Chair Dunklee had concerns that where the Historic District Commission was enabled through a ballot vote that it would have to be abolished by a ballot vote. Bruce Barnard noted that the Historic District Commission was enacted in 1973 as part of the Hebron Zoning Ordinance. Vice-Chair Dunklee felt that if zoning established the commission that zoning would have to remove the commission.

WARRANT ARTICLE #14: Vice-Chair Dunklee read article #14 to raise and appropriate \$1,194,533 as an operating budget for the 2016 fiscal year. Vice-Chair Dunklee noted the budget amount was about \$65,000 more than last year. Bob Brooks asked why the amount to be raised for account #4191 was not decreased when very little was spent in 2015. Chair Moriarty replied that this was for the Land Use Boards and the boards cannot predict how many meetings would be held in future years for subdivisions, lot mergers, and other land use changes. Tom Gump asked why account #4150 increased. Chair Moriarty replied that the town had contracted with a computer support company for an annual maintenance agreement for all of the town computers. The Board relayed to the audience that each year they try to present a sensible budget to the townspeople with trying to keep a level tax rate. Don Franklin inquired about harvesting timber in the Hebron Town Forest to reduce the loan on the property. Bruce Barnard stated that a management plan had been prepared and that the Select Board was in charge of managing the forest not the Conservation Commission. Vice-Chair Dunklee commented that the Select Board proposed managing the forest, but a couple people in the community vehemently were opposed to the idea and it was not discussed again.

8:15 P.M. **MEETING ADJOURNED:** Member Lonske moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Vice-Chair Dunklee. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Corliss
Town Administrator