

TOWN OF HEBRON
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET AND WARRANT ARTICLES
MARCH 26, 2019

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Travis Austin (Police Chief), Maynard Young, Bob Brooks, Henry Lynch, Dick and Joyce Cowern, Alison York, Everett Begor, Vin Broderick, Don George, Bob and Jan Tremble, Linda Wirth, Audrey Johnson, Barbara Brooks, Bill Luti

ABSENT: Paul Hazelton

7:00 P.M. **OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET AND WARRANT ARTICLES:** Chair Moriarty opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

WARRANT ARTICLE 1: Chair Moriarty read Warrant Article 1 to choose all Town Officers for the ensuing year by official ballot. Chair Moriarty noted that the voting on the official ballot on Tuesday, May 14 from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. in the basement of the Hebron Union Congregational Church and the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building. Chair Moriarty informed the group that at last town meeting, the voter approved changing to a fiscal year and as a result, the voters would be voting on a one-time 18 month budget.

WARRANT ARTICLE 2: Chair Moriarty read Warrant Article 2 to vote to raise and appropriate \$875 to be added to the Police Capital Reserve Fund.

WARRANT ARTICLE 3: Vice-Chair Dunklee read Warrant Article 3 to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,319 to be added to the Emergency Road Repairs Capital Reserve Fund. Chair Moriarty noted that the funds to be added were the result of Federal Emergency Management Agency recovery. Don Franklin noted that the name of the capital reserve fund needed to be corrected as it was listed in the Trustee of Trust Funds report as *Road Emergency Repairs*.

WARRANT ARTICLE 4: Vice-Chair Dunklee read Warrant Article 4 to raise and appropriate the sum of \$145,000 to make repairs, reconstruct and finish paving a section of George Road. Vice-Chair Dunklee noted that the paving would start at the intersection of Route 3-A and end where Casey Kuplin (previous Highway Supervisor) left off a couple of years ago. Henry Lynch asked how far down George Road would the project go. Vice-Chair Dunklee replied to where the project stopped a couple of years ago. Don George inquired about paving the unpaved portions of the road. Vice-Chair Dunklee replied no, these sections will remain gravel. Henry Lynch pointed out that George Road had not been graded the past two years. Vice-Chair Dunklee noted that the Highway Supervisor has worked out an agreement with the Town of Bridgewater to use their grader in trade for trucking gravel.

WARRANT ARTICLE 5: Vice-Chair Dunklee read Warrant Article 5 to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to install a security/fire alarm system at the Highway shed with \$10,000 coming from the Security Alarm Capital Reserve Fund. Vice-Chair Dunklee informed the audience that the Select Board obtained a quote for this project 3 years ago, but had put the project off due to the high cost as all the wiring would be in piping. Vice-Chair Dunklee stated that the recent fire at the Town of Danbury Highway Shed, the Board would like to protect the equipment purchased. Don Franklin asked if the annual maintenance charges had been added to the operating budget. Vice-Chair Dunklee replied yes. Maynard Young asked if this included secure key card access on the doors to the Highway Shed. Vice-Chair Dunklee replied yes.

WARRANT ARTICLE 6: Chair Moriarty read Warrant Article 6 to vote to establish a Preservation of Records Reserve Fund for digitizing and preserving the town records for archival purposes and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be placed in the funds. Further, to name

the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund. Chair Moriarty informed the audience that this will preserve records held by the Town Clerk for future years to come.

WARRANT ARTICLE 7: Vice-Chair Dunklee read Warrant Article 7 to vote to establish a George Road Relocation Capital Reserve Fund for the relocation of George Road onto North Shore Road and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to be placed in the funds. Further, to name the Selectmen as the agents to expend from said fund. Vice-Chair Dunklee relayed to the audience the history on the project to relocate the intersection of George Road and the barriers that the town is up against with relocating the road. Chair Moriarty noted that the George Road Right of Way Capital Reserve Fund had been expended which would result in the easement which the town has to be withdrawn. The Board would like to keep this project moving forward.

WARRANT ARTICLE 8: Chair Moriarty read Warrant Article 8 to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to install a new roof on the Public Safety Building. Chair Moriarty informed the audience that the estimate came in slightly lower and that the shingles need to be replaced as there are issues with the shingles on the roof. Henry Lynch asked if the existing shingles would be removed before the new shingles are installed. Vice-Chair Dunklee replied yes. Vice-Chair Dunklee informed the audience that a quote was received for replacing the roof with metal roofing at \$80,000, but there were concerns with snow slide hazards.

WARRANT ARTICLE 9: Vice-Chair Dunklee read Warrant Article 9 to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,675 for the Gazebo Programs. Everett Begor (Gazebo Committee Member) informed the audience that the committee spent some time on preparing the programs out to 2020 as the timing of the vote in 2020 would be about the time the performers start. Don Franklin asked if the fireworks that were cancelled from 2018 were carried forward. Mr. Begor replied that they had been and noted that the location of the fireworks display will be moved for 2019 as there was a conflict with schedules at the Meadow Wind B&B. Mr. Begor noted that the fireworks will be displayed behind the Public Safety Building which he was working with Chief Fischer to measure the safety distance of the perimeter where the fireworks will be set off.

WARRANT ARTICLE 10: Vice-Chair Dunklee read Warrant Article 10 to raise and appropriate the sum of \$91,800 to be added to the capital reserve funds as follows:

Police	\$6,000
Highway	\$15,000
Fire	\$25,000
Ambulance	\$20,000
Communications	\$5,000
Assessment Services	\$6,600
Cemetery Tombstones and Fence	\$2,000
Dry Hydrant	\$100
Road Emergency Repairs	\$5,000
Culvert Repair & Maintenance	\$5,000
Security Alarm	\$100

Don Franklin suggested reducing the amount into the Police Capital Reserve Fund to \$100 as the last cruiser purchased \$23,000 came from the Police Capital Reserve Fund and the balance of \$10,000 was withdrawn from the Police Special Detail Fund. Chair Moriarty asked Chief Austin for comments. Chief Austin commented that much of the work done to the police cruiser was done in-house so not all of the amount appropriated last was expended and felt this this amount could be reduced.

WARRANT ARTICLE 11: Vice-Chair Dunklee read Warrant Article 11 to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the Town Offices Expansion and Refurbishment Capital Reserve Fund with the sum to come from unassigned fund balance. Vice-Chair Dunklee informed the audience that there will still be work to be done in the upstairs of the Academy building and this

article was for that purpose. Vice-Chair Dunklee informed the audience that the Board would be using unassigned fund balance this year to reduce the tax burden on the taxpayers as a result to the 18-month budget; therefore, the Select Board does not recommend this article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 12: Chair Moriarty read Warrant Article 12 to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans' Tax Credit. Chair Moriarty informed the audience that the current Veterans' Tax Credit available to residents was more stringent with the eligibility requirements and by adopting the All Veterans' Tax Credit more people in various services would be eligible. Don Franklin informed the Board that he heard that once the veteran who was receiving the credit passes away, the funds would have to be repaid to the town. Chair Moriarty stated that he believed this was not the case.

WARRANT ARTICLE 13: Chair Moriarty read Warrant Article 13 to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,109,699 as an operating budget for 2019/2020 Fiscal Year. Chair Moriarty explained to the audience this budget was prepared for 18-months from January 2019 until June 2020. Based on the budget prepared there would be an increase to the fall tax bill and the Select Board planned on utilizing a tax anticipation note to cover any shortfalls with tax collection. Vin Broderick questioned the amount to be raised was almost doubled. Vice-Chair Moriarty informed Mr. Broderick that the reason was for the loan on the Academy Building for the renovations and addition. Vice-Chair Dunklee informed the audience that the projected tax rate for the fall of 2019 was \$11.74/per thousand and the current tax rate was \$8.58/thousand. Chair Moriarty explained that NH Department of Revenue Administration allows the towns to collect property taxes twice a year to protect the towns from overspending the monies collected to cover town operational expenses. Bob Brooks asked for the breakdown of expenditures to the Solid Waste budget. Vice-Chair Dunklee read the breakdown and noted that the bond on the incinerator would be paid for in 2019. Don Franklin asked about negotiating with Casella Waste parking a truck at the Highway Shed year round to reduce curbside trash collection costs.

Chair Moriarty informed the audience that there had been new legislation introduced that would bring back donor and receiver towns regarding contributions to education funding. Chair Moriarty noted that HB709 would be voted on in committee on Wednesday, March 27 and a lawsuit would be heard filed by ConVal on Friday, May 29 based on education funding inadequacy. Chair Moriarty noted that the additional funds raised for education was considered State Wide Education Property Tax that would be redistributed to towns throughout the State of NH. The latest estimate for Hebron was \$470,000 to be raised on top of the funds already raised for the Newfound Area School District. The hearing on Friday, March 29 was being opposed by the Attorney General as a judge should not be in charge of changing legislation. Vice-Chair Dunklee informed the audience that the last time additional funds were raised towards education, the money distributed to donor towns was not utilized towards education. Chair Moriarty explained that decisions on this change daily and the bill still had a ways to make it through legislation. The Board will stay on top of the changes.

7:55 P.M. **PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED:** Vice-Chair Dunklee moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chair Moriarty. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Corliss
Town Administrator