

**TOWN OF HEBRON, NH  
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE  
7/1/20-6/30/21 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET AND WARRANT ARTICLES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Dunklee, Chairman; Paul Hazelton, Vice-chairman; Patrick Moriarty, member; Tracey Steenbergen, secretary pro tem

**AUDIENCE MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Hardy, Richard James

**OPEN PUBLIC HEARING:** Chairman Dunklee opened the public hearing on the 7/1/20-6/30/21 fiscal year budget and warrant articles at 7:00 p.m.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 1:** Vice-chairman Hazelton read aloud Warrant Article 1 - To choose all Town Officers for the ensuing year by official ballot, including one (1) Selectman (3) year term; one (1) Treasurer (3) year term; one (1) Library Trustee (3) year term; one (1) Town Moderator (2) year term; one (1) Supervisor of the Checklist (6) year term; one (1) Auditor (2) year term. Selectman Hazelton explained this article is to elect town officers and will be voted on by ballot on election day.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 2:** Vice-chairman Hazelton read aloud Warrant Article 2 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) to be added to the Police Capital Reserve Fund. Said sum to come from unassigned fund balance. This amount represents the sale of the 2010 Ford Crown Victoria police cruiser. Selectman Moriarty explained this article is an accounting issue which allows the proceeds from the Ford Crown Victoria sale to be transferred and added to the Capital Reserve Fund for the future purchase of a police cruiser.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 3:** Selectman Moriarty read aloud Warrant Article 3 - To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750) to be added to the Conservation Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. Selectman Moriarty explained this is a “housekeeping” issue.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 4:** Chairman Dunklee read aloud Warrant Article 4 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$87,100) to install a back-up generator and ancillary equipment for the Town Office Building. This is a non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or until May 1, 2022, whichever is sooner. Chairman Dunklee stated purchase of the back-up generator will replace the current town office building generator which is inadequate to provide sufficient back-up power to the building. David Hardy inquired if a new generator was a part of the existing refurbishment of the town office building. Chairman Dunklee explained the town office building is heated with heat pumps and a larger capacity generator is required to power the heat pumps in the event of an electrical outage. Vice-chair Hazelton mentioned the town office building is also an emergency center in the event of a disaster. Richard James asked if the generator would run on propane. Chair Dunklee stated the proposed generator will run on propane and the warrant article covers the generator, two (2) 1,000-gallon propane tanks, and a transfer switch.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 5:** Vice-chair Hazelton read aloud Warrant Article 5 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to purchase software designed for the Town Clerk's Office. Tracey Steenberg, Town Clerk, explained the software being considered has the capability of processing motor vehicle transactions, dog licenses, vital records, boat registrations, and collecting other town fees. The software will provide taxpayers and residents the ability to pay/renew motor vehicles, dog licenses, etc. online by e-check or credit card and for the Town Clerk to accept credit cards over the counter.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 6:** Selectman Patrick Moriarty read aloud Warrant Article 6 - To see if the town will vote to establish a Hebron town forest Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of maintaining the town forest property and performing any improvements to utilize the property and to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) to be placed in the fund. Further, to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. Selectman Moriarty stated the Select Board is working to update the Town Forest Management Plan through a forestry management company. The plan will include establishing hiking trails and conducting a select timber harvest on the town forest. The Select Board and the Conservation Commission will be participating in the project.

**WARRANT ARTICLE REGARDING ACCEPTANCE OF KILL MOUNTAIN ROAD, SKYLINE DRIVE, AND HIGH CLIFFS CIRCLE** (no article number listed in warrant contained in budget packet): Chairman Dunklee read aloud a potential warrant article for the acceptance of Kill Mountain Road, Skyline Drive, and High Cliffs Circle as town roads. The Select Board will discuss at the April 16, 2020 Select Board meeting on whether to include this article in the final town meeting warrant as there are a few details to be clarified. Chairman Dunklee and Selectman Moriarty further explained the process required for the Town to accept the roads.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 7:** Chairman Dunklee read aloud Warrant Article 7 - To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to repair the ditches on Indian Point Road and Point Road and to repave the roads. This is a non-lapsing appropriation and shall not lapse until May 15, 2022 or until the project is completed, whichever occurs first. Vice-chair Hazelton explained the town's Highway Supervisor reviews the town's roads for necessary repairs and maintenance each year. Indian Point Road and Point Road are scheduled for this coming fiscal year's maintenance cycle.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 8:** Selectman Moriarty read aloud Warrant Article 8 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$11,850) for the Gazebo Programs. \$10,850 to be raised by taxes and \$1,000 from anticipated Donations and Grants. Selectman Moriarty stated the Gazebo Program Committee will present this year's scheduled performers at town meeting. Richard James asked if this warrant article appears on the warrant each year. Selectman Moriarty replied in the affirmative.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 9:** Chairman Dunklee read aloud Warrant Article 9 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty-five Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$85,700) to be added to the capital reserve funds and reserve fund as follows:

Police

\$7,500

Highway	\$10,000
Fire	\$20,000
Ambulance	\$15,000
Communications	\$5,000
Assessment Services	\$8,600
Cemetery Tombstones and Fence	\$2,000
Dry Hydrant	\$100
Road Emergency Repairs	\$5,000
Culvert Repair & Maintenance	\$5,000
Security Alarm	\$2,500
Preservation of Town Records	\$5,000

Chairman Dunklee explained the Town places an article to fund capital reserve accounts each year in the warrant. He further explained the proposed amounts are slightly reduced from previous years to try and maintain a stable tax rate when it is set this Fall.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 10:** Vice-chair Hazelton read aloud Warrant Article 10 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Four Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Eight Dollars (\$1,424,308) as an operating budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. This article EXCLUDES appropriations made under all previous articles. Selectman Moriarty explained the funds raised in this article are for the Town's operating budget for the various town departments. David Hardy asked if salaries are included in the warrant article amount. Selectman Moriarty stated salaries are included in this article and that the police, fire, and highway departments along with trash collection comprise the largest budget amounts.

#### **COMMENTS/QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY EMAIL:**

Chairman Dunklee read aloud emailed questions submitted by Richard James, Brenda and David Mento, and Don Franklin.

1. Richard James' Email: Mr. James, who was in attendance, stated his question concerning a quote/breakout for Warrant Article 4 (generator replacement) was answered during the budget presentation.
2. David and Brenda Mento's Email: The Mentos inquired when Panorama Lane might be paved. The Select Board stated Indian Point Road and Point Road are scheduled for maintenance this year (Warrant Article 7) and at this time are a higher priority than Panorama Lane. Chairman Dunklee will check with the Highway Supervisor to ask when Panorama Lane may be scheduled for maintenance/repair.
3. Don Franklin's Email:
  - a. Comment about budget comparison
  - b. Questions concerning the town office generator being replaced: could it be used as a trade-in and what will be done with the old generator

- c. Comment that when a new police cruiser is purchased the current contribution along with a \$10,000 contribution from the Police Detail Fund should be sufficient to purchase a new cruiser.
- d. Question as to why the town is budgeting \$8,600 for cemeteries when the Cemetery Trust Funds are not being used

The Select Board explained when the 2019 tax rate was set, the board utilized a significant portion of the fund balance to keep the tax rate down. The Select Board will determine when setting the 2020 tax rate this Fall what additional fund balance can be applied to help offset the tax rate. It is somewhat difficult to compare the upcoming 07/01/2020-06/30/2021 fiscal year's budget of 12 months against last year's 01/19/2019-06/30/2020 budget which was 18 months.

The town office generator being replaced cannot be used as a trade-in to the new generator but can be utilized at another building such as the old fire station.

The Select Board anticipates when a new police cruiser is purchased there will be sufficient funds in the Capital Reserve Account for the purchase. Selectman Moriarty stated Police Chief Austin does a good job of operating the Police Department.

The Cemetery Trust Funds cannot be utilized for cemetery maintenance. Usage of the trust funds are restricted/controlled by how the funds were bequeathed. Current laws do not allow the use of the trust funds for overall general care of the cemetery.

#### **OTHER DISCUSSION**

Chairman Dunklee stated the to-date expenditures listed in the budget packet are through March 31, 2020. At this time, the town has spent approximately 77 percent of the budget versus being 88 percent of the way through the budget cycle. The Newfound Area School District and the Grafton County taxes comprise a major component of the town's overall tax rate.

The attendees and the Select Board discussed the possibility of the town experiencing difficulty in taxpayers being able to pay taxes this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Being no further questions, **Selectman Moriarty moved and Vice-chair Hazelton seconded the motion to adjourn the budget hearing at 7:45 p.m. – motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey Steenberg  
Secretary pro tem