

**Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Special Meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 5:00 PM**

Members present: Chairman Dave Senecal, Vice Chair Brad Harriman, Luke Freudenberg, Linda Murray, and Brian Deshaies.

Staff present: James S. Pineo, Town Manager, Kathryn Carpentier, Finance Director, Police Chief Dean Rondeau, Commissioner Shawn Coope, Captain Mark Livie, Commissioner Bob O'Brien, Melissa Pillone, Recording Secretary

Chairman Senecal opened the meeting at 5:00 PM.

Non-Public Session RSA 91 A: 3 e
No Non-Public Session is needed.

1. Consideration of Minutes:
N/A

2. 2023 Warrant Articles;

- i. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$72,706 for the purpose of creating a new position within the Wolfeboro Police Department effective June 5, 2023. During the regular school year this position shall be assigned the position of School Resource Police Officer (SRO) for the Kingswood Complex. The remainder of time, outside the regular school year, the position shall be assigned as a town of Wolfeboro patrol officer. The school district, SAU49, shall pay the Town of Wolfeboro 50% of payroll and benefits which is \$22,338 for this position for up to 73 school days (August 2023 – December 2023). This position shall be created and filled only if both the Town warrant article and the SAU49 Warrant Article VII pass. If both articles are successful, this position shall be fully funded in future years with the SAU49 paying half of payroll and benefits for up to 180 school days.

Jim Pineo read the Warrant Article and added that the estimated tax rate impact for 2023 would be \$.02 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

Chairman Senecal opened the meeting for discussion.

Brian Deshaies started by stating he is not against school safety. He said he has conducted research to find out how many RSOs there are per capita in the region. If this passes, Wolfeboro will have more RSOs than any other town in the state. He questioned why the Town needs more RSOs and if there are more incidents in Wolfeboro that would warrant this. He wants to see documentation to support the reasoning.

Luke Freudenberg responded that these concerns were addressed at last night's School Board meeting. He expressed that SROs are a huge value and that if the professionals are saying more are needed, he is satisfied.

Linda Murray stated she is comfortable with the Warrant Article. She feels she has a good understanding after last night's School Board meeting. She pointed out that the School District Warrant Article is for a full year and that the Town Warrant Article is for a half year.

Chief Rondeau explained the history of the SRO officer in Wolfeboro and explained that caseloads have consistently increased in numbers. Society has changed tremendously. Internet and technology have added new challenges that need to be investigated. It is time to put an SRO at the middle school to deal with the increasing problems and serious issues they are beginning to see. The police department must be in a position to protect lives and property.

Brad Harriman said "presence is prevention". He is in support of the Warrant Article and believes presence of an SRO in the middle school will deter incidences.

Commissioner Coope reiterated that presence is a deterrent. Looking at the numbers, Wolfeboro is not too far off from the number of SROs other towns have per capita. Wolfeboro has more juvenile criminal complaints than any other town in Carroll County.

Mr. Deshaies said he needs answers because the taxpayers are asking questions and right now and he has no information for them. He again stated he is not against safety or SROs.

Chief Rondeau said citizens have stated support of this article.

Commissioner O'Brien shared that he has been working with youth his entire career. It is important to have someone in the school gaining trust.

Linda Murray said SRO Devine spoke at last night's meeting about education. She stated Wolfeboro is lucky to have her.

Chief Rondeau stated that having SROs in schools is responsible policing. He suggested that Mr. Deshaies send any taxpayer with questions directly to him.

It was moved by Linda Murray and seconded by Brian Deshaies to place the School Resource Police Officer position (SRO) for the Kingswood Complex on the 2023 Warrant Members voted, being all in favor, the motion passed.

It was moved by Brad Harriman and seconded by Luke Freudenberg to recommend the 2023 Warrant Article for a School Resource Police Officer position (SRO) for the Kingswood Complex. Members votes, with four in favor and one abstaining, the motion passed.

3. Petition Articles received by January 10th:

Jim Pineo said there are six petition Warrant Articles:
\$50,000 for a playground

\$81,000 for Clark Park
\$10,700 for external landscaping at the IGA
Creation of a Parks and Recreation Commission
Reaffirmation of the 1st Amendment
Bike trails as laid out by the Single Track Alliance

Brian Deshaies asked if a discussion is needed regarding the petition warrant article from the Single Track Alliance since the Town is accepting over \$300,000 in donations.

Mr. Pineo said that petitions go on the Warrant Article as written, regardless of whether the board recommends or not.

Kathryn Carpentier read the legal opinion of Attorney Nathan Fennessy, as printed below, regarding this issue:

I think the BOS should not take a position on the petitioned warrant articles. If a member wanted to suggest an amendment to the petitioned warrant articles at the deliberative session, he or she could do so as long as the amendment pertained to the same subject matter.

If the petitioned articles involve an appropriation of funds, then the budget committee should take a position on whether it supports them or not.

Mr. Deshaies said that citizens are concerned because there are currently 4 MOUs and we there is talk about entering into another MOU with the Single Track Alliance. He would like to see MOUs from both the Single Track Alliance to the Lakes Region Conservation Trust and the Wolfeboro Cross Country Association to the Town. He would also like to see an accounting record of the \$42,000 being used by the Single Track Alliance to maintain town property.

Linda Murray questioned whether the Board should talk about petition warrant articles at the next Board of Selectmen meeting. In particular, she has questions about the petition warrant article to create a Parks and Recreation Commission and the power of authority given to such a commission.

Mr. Pineo offered to set up a workshop with legal counsel present. Board members welcomed this idea.

Ms. Carpentier asked for confirmation that the six petition warrant articles will be moved to the Warrant Article.

Ms. Murray stated that yes, they automatically go on.

Chairman Senecal entertained a motion to adjourn.

It was moved by Luke Freudenberg and seconded by Brain Deshaies to adjourn at 5:38 PM. Members voted, being all in favor, the motion passed.

Respectively Submitted,
Melissa Pillone, Recording Secretary