

**TOWN OF WOLFEBORO
BUDGET COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
January 12, 2021
Great Hall, Wolfeboro Town Hall and Virtual Access**

Chairman MacDonald opened the meeting at 7:01 pm.

I. Preamble and Roll Call of Members in Attendance

Good evening and welcome to the January 12, 2021 meeting of the Wolfeboro Budget Committee.

Due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order #2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically. However, the Committee has jointly decided to proceed with a 'hybrid' meeting format allowing for members of the public and Board to attend and participate in the meeting in-person or virtually. In accordance with RSA 91-A: 2, III, the Board has 5 members joining the meeting remotely, which a public body has the authorization to allow.

At this time I would like to take a roll-call vote of ALL members present. For those participating virtually, please indicate why your attendance is not reasonably practical and if you have any other individuals present in the room with you.

Budget Committee Members Present (In-person): John MacDonald, Chairman, Bob Loughman, Matthew Plache, Steve Johnson, Bob Moholland, Members.

Budget Committee Members Present (Virtual): Bob Tougher, Vice-Chairman (indicated he is at his residence and no one is present), John Burt (indicated he is at his residence and no one is present), Tom Bell (indicated he is at his residence and no one is present), Brian Black, (indicated he is at his residence and no one is present), Paul O'Brien, Selectmen's Representative (indicated he is at his residence and no one is present), Linda Murray, BOS Alternate Representative (indicated she is at her residence and no one is present).

Votes taken during this meeting will be via roll call vote for ALL members.

In accordance with Emergency Order #12, for members of the public, this is to confirm that we are:

1. Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means through GoToMeeting. All members of the public and Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the GoToMeeting platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone #+1 (646) 749-3122 followed by the audio access code 918-242-429, or by video following the directions on the Town of Wolfeboro Website posted on the home page under the Virtual Town Meeting Login Information page.
2. Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting; we previously gave notice to the public of how to access the meeting in-person or using GoToMeeting and in, and instructions are provided on the Town of Wolfeboro website at wolfeboronh.us on the Virtual Town Meeting Login Information page.
3. Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access; If anybody has a problem accessing the meeting via phone or computer, please immediately call 603-486-2692 OR email hendrickson.leeann@gmail.com In the event that the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled at that time.

Staff Present (In-person): Jim Pineo, Town Manager.

Staff Present (Virtual): Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director, Lee Ann Hendrickson, Administrative Secretary.

The Committee participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Warrant Articles

Chairman MacDonald opened the public hearing.

Article 6: Electric Distribution Conversion Phase #6 **\$1,850,000**

John MacDonald read Article 6.

Jim Pineo stated the BOS are voting on the article on 1/13/21.

It was moved by Bob Moholland and seconded by Bob Loughman to recommend Article 6. Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Tom Bell – yes, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - yes. The motion passed (9-0).

Article 7: Rapid Infiltration Basin (RIB) Site Upgrade \$3,800,000

John MacDonald read Article 7.

Jim Pineo stated that based on the engineer's estimate the amount of the warrant article was increased from \$3,500,000 to \$3,800,000. He stated the bid opening is scheduled in two weeks.

John Burt questioned whether the Town would receive State funding.

Dave Ford stated the Town would receive loan forgiveness through a State revolving loan of \$500,000 based on the total cost of the project.

Suzanne Ryan asked how secure the return on the State loan is and asked if the Town received such in writing.

Dave Ford stated the State approved such and the Town will be receiving final approval following Town vote. He stated he has emails of the conversations regarding the matter.

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by Bob Moholland to recommend Article 7. Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Tom Bell – yes, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - yes. The motion passed (9-0).

Article 9: Recreational Dock Repairs \$850,000

John MacDonald read Article 9.

Jim Pineo stated the contractor is currently mobilizing to do the repairs to Dock A; noting the project and funding was approved at a previous Town vote. He stated the warrant article represents repairs and upgrades to the existing docks.

Bob Loughman asked if the repair of the wall along the Smith River is included.

Jim Pineo replied no, such is a separate project.

Bob Tougher stated the Dock Committee met yesterday; noting the Committee feels the plan is put together well. He stated the scope of the dock extension project was decreased.

Mary DeVries, Director of the Wolfboro Area Chamber of Commerce, member of the Ad Hoc Town Dock Committee and taxpayer, stated she is in favor of the article.

It was moved by Brian Black and seconded by John Burt to recommend Article 9. Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Tom Bell – yes, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - yes. The motion passed (9-0).

Article 8: WWTP Asset Management Plan \$30,000

John MacDonald read Article 8.

Dave Ford stated the Town entered into a loan agreement; noting that once the Asset Management Plan is completed the Town will receive the grant for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Steve Johnson asked how the funds are spent.

Dave Ford stated a business plan will be developed and a determination will be made whether to maintain or replace the asset; noting costs associated with both options will be provided.

Suzanne Ryan asked how secure the grant is.

Dave Ford stated he has documentation in writing regarding receipt of the grant.

Suzanne Ryan asked what happens if the analysis suggests that the facility cannot be repaired and questioned the options for the Town.

Dave Ford stated the Town has used the capital reserve funds to extend the useful life of the facility however, a decision will have to be made whether to maintain or eliminate the facility.

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by John Burt to recommend Article 8. Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Tom Bell – yes, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - yes. The motion passed (9-0).

Article 10: Recreational Docks Extension **\$300,000**

John MacDonald read Article 10.

Jim Pineo stated that if the article passes, the dock extension would be completed for spring 2022.

Bob Loughman stated the CIP Committee recommended the project for 2024.

Jim Pineo stated the Ad Hoc Dock Committee feels that this year is optimal for completion of the dock extension project.

Bob Moholland stated he does not support the project; noting the parking issue needs to be addressed and fixed. He stated the extension project is a want and not a need and cannot support it.

Matt Plache asked if there is documentation of the number of jobs the project would produce and the estimated revenue.

Jim Pineo stated the EDC produced a document that provides such information however, he could not speak to it.

Steve Johnson stated he agrees with Bob Loughman and Bob Moholland's comments.

Suzanne Ryan stated that as a member of the CIP Committee she questioned Dave Ford at the time the Committee reviewed the project if he had taken measure of the need for repair of the docks in Back Bay. She recommended signage to direct the smaller boats to the docks in Back Bay. She stated the project is a want and not a need and will oppose the article at the Deliberative Session.

Mary DeVries stated the Dock Committee voted unanimously for the warrant article. She stated the project is a need and not a want for residents, island residents and visitors. She stated the EDC also had a detailed conversation with the CIP Committee and agreed that the project is very important. She stated the Back Bay docks are very much in use and she is not in favor of the Town stating what size boat can go where.

Brian Black stated he receives a lot of feedback from the voting community and has heard of many occasions that customers refuse to come to Wolfeboro especially on weekends because there is not enough dock space. He stated the project would allow boaters to utilize the docks and town services and noted there is a financial advantage to completing the project at the same time the repairs are being done. He stated the project would benefit the Town's economy; noting boat ownership has sky rocketed and Wolfeboro is a destination for boaters. He stated customers express frustration not being able to get into the Town docks.

Bob Loughman stated there is no pay back to the taxpayers.

Brian Black asked what the taxpayers received from the Library expansion.

Brad Harriman stated he supports the article.

Suzanne Ryan stated the majority of tourists come by car and not by boat. She stated that as a taxpayer she would prefer the article to be bonded.

Bob Moholland stated there has been no survey or study that has been done that supports the comments of the EDC.

Mary DeVries stated there was no survey done when the Town purchased the Glendon Street parking area. She stated there is a need for parking.

Steve Johnson asked when the repairs to the Dockside parking lot would be done.

Jim Pineo stated the parking lot project is not currently scheduled for this year; noting a plan needs to be developed and presented to the Budget Committee at the time the repairs to the seawall are presented.

Linda Murray stated in 2017 the taxpayers approved \$25,000 for the engineering and design of the dock expansion. She stated the Town spent money to re-angle the boat ramp and hopes the voters support the article.

Suzanne Ryan asked if the BOS and Town Manager would bond the project.

Jim Pineo stated the BOS discussed and agreed to a cash appropriation at this time; noting there is no time to hold a bond hearing.

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by John MacDonald to recommend Article 10. Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – no, Steve Johnson – no, Tom Bell – yes, Matt Plache – no, John Burt – no, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - no. The motion failed (4-5).

Article 11: Operating Budget **\$28,653,102**

John MacDonald read Article 11 and reviewed a PowerPoint presentation.

It was moved by Bob Moholland and seconded by Matt Plache to recommend Article 11. Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Tom Bell – yes, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – no, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - yes. The motion passed (8-1).

Article 13: Pop Whalen Ice Arena **\$125,000**

John MacDonald read Article 13.

Jim Pineo stated that when Christine Collins reached out to the vendor to verify the pricing for the proposed upgrades, the vendor would not commit to the pricing. Therefore, he stated a decision was made to request \$125,000 (general taxation) to seek professional design services to develop a scope of work for repairs to the ice arena (roof, siding, insulation, dehumidification and electrical upgrades).

Bob Loughman asked if the pricing would be available to the CIP Committee next year.

Jim Pineo stated it is his hopes for such.

Steve Johnson asked that if the Town is in a partnership and a schedule for completion is provided, would there be a favorable outcome for the cost of the completion.

Jim Pineo replied no, however there may be a favorable outcome with regard to the expansion of the facility.

out how many times the ladder truck has been used since its purchase and questioned whether the Town needs to spend this kind of money on a vehicle that may or may not have an impact on an ISO rating. He asked whether the Town would be better served to have a different set of vehicles other than a ladder truck. He asked why a used vehicle hasn't been considered.

Jim Pineo stated the Town does need a ladder truck given the height of the vehicles in the Town. He stated there is a difference between buying used apparatus for collection purposes versus operational purposes.

Norm Skantze stated there are a number of components that go into an ISO rating. He stated the insurance service organization collects a catalogue of data that insurance companies can use if they subscribe to it to determine their approach to policy what the cost of insurance will be for commercial and residential properties. He stated there is a point system for having an aerial; noting such apparatus has value. He stated a ladder truck is a tactical operational decision; noting the Town has approximately 50 multi-story and large area buildings and have a lot of residential dwellings in the community that has more than one story. He stated a ladder truck plays an important role in rescue and in supporting attacks on fires by being able to get to roofs and upper stories and allow for ventilation. He stated the Town doesn't have enough manpower to work without an aerial device.

John Burt stated the money used to buy the truck could be used to offset taxes; noting the language in the article stating there is no tax impact is not true.

Steve Johnson asked if the money in the capital reserve fund can only be used to purchase a ladder truck or if it could be used for equipment in the Fire Department.

Jim Pineo stated the funds can be used for equipment.

Steve Johnson asked if consideration has been given to a shared ladder truck with other communities and noted that a lot of buildings are now sprinkled.

Bob Loughman asked Mr. Skantze if he is comfortable with a balance of \$223,169 following the purchase of the ladder truck until next year's appropriation.

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by Bob Moholland to recommend Article 16. Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – no, Steve Johnson – no, Tom Bell – no, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - yes. The motion passed (7-2).

Article 17: Town Road Upgrades

\$650,000

John MacDonald read Article 17.

Jim Pineo stated the roads to be upgraded will be Stoneham Road, Clark Road, East Clark Road and Goodrich Road; noting a combination of fund balance and general taxation is being used.

Steve Johnson asked if the project is going out to bid.

Dave Ford replied yes.

Suzanne Ryan stated typically in the past language preceding the dollar amount in the article has been "not to exceed." She stated the Town has deviated from such in the past few years and asked if the language could be added.

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by Brian Black to recommend Article 17. Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Tom Bell – yes, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - yes. The motion passed (9-0).

Article 18: High Street and Park Street Upgrades **\$881,000**

John MacDonald read Article 18.

It was moved by John Burt and seconded by Bob Moholland to recommend Article 18. Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Tom Bell – yes, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - yes. The motion passed (9-0).

Article 19: Railroad Avenue Layout **\$100,000**

John MacDonald read Article 19.

Suzanne Ryan asked if a survey has been conducted.

Dave Ford replied yes, however the layout process still needs to be done; noting additional survey work needs to be done relative to the road layout process. He stated the engineering and drainage plans need to be completed.

Suzanne Ryan asked if the Town will need to negotiate to take any land.

Dave Ford replied no. He stated the Town has a verbal agreement with the Bean family and the Town owns the remainder of the land. He stated the Town is coordinating the project with the railroad museum.

Steve Johnson asked if the project is going out to bid.

Dave Ford stated the project is being done in-house however, the paving will be bid out.

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by Matt Plache to recommend Article 19. Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Tom Bell – yes, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - yes. The motion passed (9-0).

Article 20: Sewer Pump Station Engineering **\$100,000**

John MacDonald read Article 20.

Steve Johnson asked who will conduct the preliminary engineering.

Dave Ford stated the Town advertised a Request for Qualifications; noting four firms were selected for interviews and HDR was selected. He stated the pump stations (Lehner Street and Mill Street) were built in the 1940's and upgraded in the 1990's. He stated in 2006 the Town received an estimate of \$3 million to replace both stations however, the Town was able to delay such by doing as much maintenance as possible.

It was moved by Bob Moholland and seconded by Matt Plache to recommend Article 20. Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Tom Bell – yes, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - yes. The motion passed (9-0).

Article 21: Library Generator **\$75,000**

John MacDonald read Article 21.

Jim Pineo stated the installation of a generator is critical to the facility and its heating system. He stated State and Federal grants are being sought for the facility to be used as a warming/cooling shelter.

Bob Loughman asked if the Fire Department has a generator.

Jim Pineo replied yes.

Bob Loughman asked if consideration has been given to purchasing a generator sized for both the Library and Public Safety Building.

Jim Pineo stated such was discussed during the CIP process and it was determined that such wasn't feasible.

Norm Skantze stated he and Cindy Scott have had several conversations regarding such; noting the current generator at the Fire Department would not be capable of serving both buildings because the heat at the Library is electric.

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by Bob Moholland to recommend Article 21. Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – yes, Steve Johnson – no, Tom Bell – yes, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - yes. The motion passed (8-1).

Article 22: Police Vehicle

\$57,077

John MacDonald read Article 22.

Jim Pineo stated the Police Commission has voted on such 3-0; noting the request is for a new police cruiser so the Police Department can outfit their department to the level they are pursuing.

Steve Wood stated the Commission has determined that for the Department to be operationally affective and mobilize manpower resources that the Department will get onto a rotating cycle. He stated the Department currently has nine cruisers and if this is approved the Department will have ten cruisers. He stated no vehicles will be removed from the fleet this year or next year. He stated it is a policy decision that has been made and a warrant article will be coming forward every year; noting once the Department gets to 11 cruisers they will start rotating one vehicle in, one vehicle out.

John MacDonald questioned the number of full time officers.

Steve Wood replied 14 inclusive of the Chief and Captain.

John MacDonald asked if other communities have been reviewed relative to the number of cruisers the departments have. He stated he doesn't understand why Wolfeboro needs so many cruisers.

Steve Wood stated a contingent reviewed Tilton's Department; noting Tilton has 17 sworn officers and a fleet of 13 vehicles.

John MacDonald stated he spoke to a Police Commissioner in Conway who stated they have 24 sworn officers and are using 12 cruisers. He stated Wakefield has 12 full time and 4 part time officers with 7 cruisers.

Dean Rondeau stated the numbers are off; noting Conway has 24 officers and 11 cruisers and are adding two this year to make 13 cruisers.

John MacDonald stated Wolfeboro is a unique community and doesn't have the roads that Conway, Alton, Wakefield or Tilton have. He stated the Committee is being very cautious with the taxpayer's money and would hate to get into having to buy a cruiser every year.

Steve Wood referenced the Asset Management Plan with regard to maintenance of older vehicles. He stated the fleet was at 11 in 2014.

John Burt asked who has assigned vehicles to them full time.

Steve Wood stated the Chief, Captain, Detective and Canine Officer are assigned vehicles.

John Burt asked if any of those four people use the vehicle to drive to and from their residence.

Dean Rondeau replied yes.

It was moved by Tom Bell and seconded by Matt Plache to recommend Article 22.

Discussion of the motion:

Brian Black asked whether each officer would be assigned a cruiser once the goal of 11 cruisers has been obtained.

Dean Rondeau and Steve Wood replied no.

Steve Wood stated the Department has a very strict policy with the use of cruisers and a cruiser for each officer would not happen.

Brian Black stated the perception is that each officer would have a cruiser.

Dean Rondeau stated it is not in his plan to assign take home cruisers to every officer.

Steve Johnson asked if the current nine cruisers are in good shape.

Dean Rondeau stated there are 3 cruisers that are aging out. He stated the Department should be able to get 10 years out of a cruiser before rotating out the vehicles.

Steve Johnson stated he will support this year's request however, won't support an annual purchase.

Bob Loughman confirmed a minimal annual expense of \$30-\$35,000 for vehicles that don't require outfitting.

John MacDonald stated Ford will be changing the equipment to outfit the cruisers in 2025.

Brian Black stated that purchasing a cruiser every year has been in practice for quite a while and noted the Town moved to a lease purchase option for a few years.

Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Tom Bell – yes, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – no, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - yes. The motion passed (8-1).

Article 23: Water Resources Non-Capital Reserve Fund \$50,000

John MacDonald read Article 23.

Jim Pineo stated the language was cleared up to reflect a non-capital reserve fund pursuant to the RSA. He stated the purpose of establishing the fund is for the Town to be able to pursue grant funding for projects. He stated it is anticipated that the request will be an annual appropriation and increase over time in order to address larger projects.

It was moved by John MacDonald and seconded by Brian Black to recommend Article 23.

Discussion of the motion:

Steve Johnson stated there are enough funds left over in the budgets that can be used without having the warrant article.

John MacDonald stated he supports the article because water is the most important resource in the Town and anything that can be done to protect such will benefit the Town.

Bob Loughman stated he is concerned about the water quality and the impact to the Town however, feels the amount is excessive.

Matt Plache stated he is very concerned about water quality as well. He stated last year's article was very specific and expressed concern with how the article is written; noting it is loose and open ended.

Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – no, Steve Johnson – no, Tom Bell – yes, Matt Plache – no, John Burt – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - yes. The motion passed (6-3).

Article 25: Public Works Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund \$180,000

John MacDonald read Article 25.

Jim Pineo noted the request is an annual request and is an increase of \$5,000 from the previous year (\$175,000). He stated a 1-ton pickup truck and compactor at the Solid Waste Facility will be replaced.

It was moved by John Burt and seconded by Bob Moholland to recommend Article 25. Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Tom Bell – yes, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - yes. The motion passed (9-0).

Article 27: Bridge Falls Path Lighting Capital Reserve Fund \$20,000

John MacDonald read Article 27.

Jim Pineo stated it is his hope to present a comprehensive plan to the CIP Committee this year.

John Burt questioned the projected cost for the project and the balance of the capital reserve fund.

Jim Pineo stated the current balance of the fund is \$20,000. He stated the Town has an estimate of \$50,000 to secure the electricity so that it is safe and an estimate to replace the system for \$80-\$120,000.

It was moved by Steve Johnson and seconded by John Burt to recommend Article 27. Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Tom Bell – yes, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - yes. The motion passed (9-0).

Article 26: Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund \$75,000

John MacDonald read Article 26.

Jim Pineo reviewed the projects that have been completed as a result of the annual appropriation and reviewed the list of projects that need to be addressed this year.

Steve Johnson stated the fund was created in 2016 and noted a current balance of \$156,000. He stated he doesn't see any expenditures in 2020.

Jim Pineo stated there have been some expenditures and requested Dave Ford to respond.

Bob Loughman stated the balance of the fund is \$94,085 after the 2020 repairs.

It was moved by John Burt and seconded by Bob Loughman to recommend Article 26. Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – yes, Steve Johnson – no, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - yes. The motion passed (7-1).

****Tom Bell was not present for the vote.**

Article 28: Abenaki Capital Reserve Fund \$20,000

John MacDonald read Article 28.

Jim Pineo stated such is an annual request; noting an increase to \$20,000.

Bob Loughman stated the balance of the account is \$111,077.

Steve Johnson asked what the funds would be used for.

Jim Pineo stated the Asset Management Plan outlines such.

Christine Collins stated the groomer is in need of replacement.

Bob Loughman requested a copy of the Asset Management Plan.

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by Steve Johnson to recommend Article 28. Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Tom Bell – yes, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - yes. The motion passed (9-0).

Article 29: Fire Trucks and Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve Fund \$196,000

John MacDonald read Article 29.

Jim Pineo stated such is the annual appropriation; noting following the purchase of the ladder truck a pumper is scheduled for purchase in 2024.

It was moved by John Burt and seconded by Bob Moholland to recommend Article 29. Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Tom Bell – yes, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - yes. The motion passed (9-0).

Article 30: Dispatch Equipment Capital Reserve Fund \$50,000

John MacDonald read Article 30 and questioned the balance of the fund.

Bob Loughman replied \$145,782. He stated the current plan presented to the CIP Committee is \$352,000 in 2022.

John Burt asked if the unassigned fund balance is being tracked.

Jim Pineo stated there is \$4 million in the unassigned fund balance at the end of 2019; noting a reduction of \$200,000 to pay for the revaluation. He stated there is ample money to absorb the expenses associated with the use of unassigned fund balance projects.

John Burt asked what is anticipated to be used from the unassigned fund balance from these warrant articles.

Kathy Carpentier stated the Town is funding the ladder truck in the amount of \$480,000 and the road upgrades in the amount of \$650,000 for a total of \$1.1 million and leaving a balance of \$2.6770 million (7.6% of the fund balance).

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by Matt Plache to recommend Article 30. Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Tom Bell – yes, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - yes. The motion passed (9-0).

Article 31: Transition to an Appointed Treasurer \$2,500

John MacDonald read Article 31.

Jim Pineo stated John Burt would like to retire and the funds would assist in training a new treasurer.

John MacDonald asked how many hours are anticipated for the position.

John Burt stated his hours are 50-60 hours/month.

Steve Johnson questioned the difference between an elected treasurer and an appointed treasurer.

Kathy Carpentier reviewed such.

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by Bob Moholland to recommend Article 31. Roll call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Tom Bell – yes, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - yes. The motion passed (9-0).

Article 32: Reorganization of the Director of Public Works \$67,546

John MacDonald read Article 32.

Suzanne Ryan stated previously discussed was the percentage of wages for the union employees which is typically given to the nonunion employees. She asked if the Director of the Department of Public Works would be getting a 4% increase.

Jim Pineo replied no. He stated nonunion staff are receiving 2%.

Suzanne Ryan asked if the Director would be receiving the 2% increase.

Jim Pineo stated the incumbent would be receiving a 2% increase.

Suzanne Ryan confirmed that the current Director of Public Works would be receiving a 2% increase.

John Burt noted a 31% increase (\$116,000) in 2021 in supervisory salaries.

Steve Johnson asked if the article will stand the way it is written.

Jim Pineo replied yes and noted the BOS is awaiting DRA review.

Steve Johnson stated he is not in favor of the article and feels the preparation of the article was disingenuous. He stated that he believes that even if the Committee votes against it, the position will be put into effect anyways. He stated the BOS and Town Manager could probably implement the position.

John MacDonald stated he is sure the Town Manager and the BOS will follow through with the will of the people.

Jim Pineo agreed with Mr. MacDonald and stated that if the article is voted down that he will not be bringing it forward to fill the position.

Brian Black stated the matter has been an issue for years and would like to think that the reorganization is designed to make the accomplishment of projects go more smoothly. He stated the fact that the personnel in the Public Works Department hasn't increased in years says a lot when compared to the number and scope of the projects the Department has taken on.

Bob Loughman concurred with Mr. Black. He stated that following discussions with Dave Ford early in the budget process it was clear that a succession plan was needed and noted the proposal represents a succession plan. He stated he thinks the Town will benefit greatly from the reorganization for not a lot of cost.

John MacDonald expressed concern that if the article passes that the funds for the position isn't properly allocated.

Jim Pineo stated the cuts to the general fund budget doesn't take into account that the bulk of Mr. Ford's salary is in the water and sewer accounts. He stated the funds are in the budget.

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by Brian Black to recommend Article 32. Roll call vote: John MacDonald – no, Bob Tougher – no, Bob Loughman – yes, Steve Johnson – no, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – no, Brian Black – yes, Bob Moholland - no. The motion failed (5-3).

****Tom Bell was not present for the vote.**

III. Other Business

- **Estimated Town Tax Rate**
John MacDonald reviewed such.
- **Deliberative Session**
Deliberative Session scheduled for February 2, 2021, 7 PM at the Kingswood Arts Center.
- Suzanne Ryan requested the warrant articles, budget binder and backup information be made available at the Library for public inspection.

IV. Public Comment

None.

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by Bob Moholland to adjourn the January 12, 2021 Budget Committee Public Hearing. Roll Call vote: John MacDonald – yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Matt Plache – yes, John Burt – yes, Brian Black – yes, TomBell - yes. The motion passed (9-0).

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lee Ann Hendrickson
Lee Ann Hendrickson