

**TOWN OF WOLFEBORO
BUDGET COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
January 13, 2022 – Public Hearing
Wolfeboro Town Hall**

I. Call To Order

Chairman MacDonald opened the meeting at 7:29 pm.

Members Present: John MacDonald, Chairman, Bob Tougher, Vice-Chairman, Steve Johnson, Bob Loughman, Matt Plache, Bob Moholland, Brian Black, Tom Bell, Members, Brian Deshaies, BOS Representative, Linda Murray, BOS Alternate Representative.

Member Absent: John Burt, Member (excused).

Staff Present: Jim Pineo, Town Manager, Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director, Lee Ann Hendrickson, Administrative Assistant.

**II. Public Hearing
2022 Budget**

John MacDonald reviewed the proposed 2022 Operating Budget, 2022 Budget Guidelines and total budget requests, see attached presentation.

Jim Pineo noted an 8.05% increase of all budgets including Enterprise Funds.

John MacDonald continued the review of the 2022 budget, see attached presentation.

Jim Pineo stated the Town recently entered into a two-year contract with Stewart’s Ambulance for ambulance services.

John MacDonald requested the Town Manager speak to the request for a new staff position at the Fire Department.

Jim Pineo reviewed such.

John MacDonald requested the Town Manager speak to the new budget line appropriated for Town Docks.

Jim Pineo reviewed such.

Referencing the Solid Waste tipping fees, Suzanne Ryan asked when the last time such went out to bid and questioned the length of the contract with the haulers.

Dave Ford stated it is a five-year contract.

Referencing Proposed Water Enterprise Fund funded by fees and other revenue, John MacDonald requested the presentation be amended by changing “Water Distribution Increase” to “Water Distribution Decrease.”

Jim Pineo reviewed the Purchase Power Agreement. He stated that if all the warrant articles pass the tax rate would increase from \$5.28 to \$5.63; noting a \$0.35/6.29% increase.

Bob Tougher noted a \$240,000 difference between the proposed operating budget and default budget; noting that if the operating budget fails the rate would increase to \$0.32-\$0.33.

Warrant Articles

Article 11: Pop Whalen Ice Arena and Arts Center Renovation & Expansion Project (Bond) \$6,972,951

***This article was voted at the January 13, 2021 Budget Committee regular meeting held previous to the Budget Committee's public hearing on the 2022 Budget, see vote below.

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by Steve Johnson to recommend Article 11. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 12: Seasonal Water Line Replacement (Bond)

\$500,000

Jim Pineo read Article 12 and reviewed the project.

John MacDonald questioned the estimated revenue for such.

Dave Ford stated he hasn't calculated such.

Steve Johnson questioned an estimate of lost water gained as a result of the project.

Dave Ford stated unaccounted water has increased and noted such will be addressed.

It was moved by Brian Black and seconded by Bob Tougher to recommend Article 12. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 13: Dockside Upgrade Phase III (Bond)

\$700,000

Jim Pineo read Article 13 and reviewed the project.

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by Tom Bell to recommend Article 13. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – no, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed (7-1).

Article 14: Port Wedeln Drainage Upgrades (SRLF/Bond)

\$430,290

Jim Pineo read Article 14.

Dave Ford reviewed the project.

Suzanne Ryan asked if the \$100,000 from the Port Wedeln Association would be given to the Town upfront.

Dave Ford stated the Association will be paying a portion of the loan over a ten-year period.

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by Matt Plache to recommend Article 14. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 15: Sewer Pump Station Upgrade Mill Street (SRLF/Bond)

\$1,680,000

Jim Pineo read Article 15.

Dave Ford reviewed the project.

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by Tom Bell to recommend Article 15. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 16: Water Treatment Plant and System Upgrades (SRLF/Bond) \$1,470,000
Jim Pineo read Article 16.

It was moved by Tom Bell and seconded by Bob Tougher to recommend Article 16. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 17: Water Main Upgrades (SRLF/Bond) \$720,000
Jim Pineo read Article 17.

Dave Ford reviewed the project.

It was moved by Bob Moholland and seconded by Brian Black to recommend Article 17. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 18: Operating Budget \$29,753,295
Jim Pineo read Article 18.

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by Bob Moholland to recommend Article 18. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 19: AFSCME Contract Agreement

Jim Pineo read Article 19. He stated the Fire Department has affiliated with the contract; noting nine additional employees are included in the agreement.

Bob Tougher asked if NH is a right to work state.

Jim Pineo replied yes and noted there is an ability to opt out.

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by Bob Moholland to recommend Article 19. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – abstain, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed (7-0-1).

Article 20: Electric Power Reconstruction of Turtle Island Road \$270,000
Jim Pineo read Article 20 and reviewed the project.

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by Bob Tougher to recommend Article 20. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 21: Bridge Falls Path Lighting Replacement \$252,000
Jim Pineo read Article 21 and reviewed the project.

Brian Black asked if the project ties into or benefits the train museum.

Dave Ford stated it is separate from the museum; noting the building has its own lighting and conduit.

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by Bob Loughman to recommend Article 21. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 22: Sewer Pump Station Upgrade Lehner Street

\$1,270,000

Jim Pineo read Article 22.

Dave Ford reviewed the project and noted the Town did not apply for ARPA funds for the project.

It was moved by Bob Moholland and seconded by Tom Bell to recommend Article 22. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 23: Public Safety Building Construction Grade Bid Documents

\$300,000

Jim Pineo read Article 23. He stated every Town owned parcel of land has been reviewed and no other parcel has been found to be conducive for the project.

Brian Black asked if conceptual plans are published and available on the website.

Jim Pineo stated plans are available however noted that the architect has not yet presented such to the BOS.

Tom Bell asked if the documents are intended to retrieve more than one bid.

Jim Pineo stated the Town has estimates based on an architect's vision.

Steve Johnson asked if there is a sense of the size of the building

Bob Loughman stated proposals have been forwarded to the Committee.

John MacDonald stated the Committee has not received the most recent designs.

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by Bob Loughman to recommend Article 23. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – no, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – abstain, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (6-1-1).

Article 24: Town Wide Historic Resources Study

\$17,000

Jim Pineo read Article 24.

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by Bob Tougher to recommend Article 24. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 25: Town Road Upgrades

\$1,300,000

Jim Pineo read Article 25.

Bob Loughman asked if any of the money will be expended for Town employee labor.

Dave Ford stated the larger projects will be bid out and contracted out however smaller projects would be done in-house.

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by Tom Bell to recommend Article 25. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 26: Water Line Upgrades
Jim Pineo read Article 26.

\$125,000

Bob Loughman asked if such is related to Article 17.

Dave Ford replied no. He stated it is related to Article 25 Town Road Upgrades.

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by Tom Bell to recommend Article 26. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 27: Solid Waste Site Upgrades
Jim Pineo read Article 27.

\$125,000

It was moved by Bob Moholland and seconded by Bob Tougher to recommend Article 27. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 28: Department of Public Works Truck and Employee
Jim Pineo read Article 28.

\$139,600

Referencing the language in the warrant article “shall become a member of the AFSCME Collective Bargaining unit,” John MacDonald stated he does not believe a person can be required to join a union.

Jim Pineo stated the position will be covered by the union.

John MacDonald stated the language states “shall become.” He requested such be reviewed further.

Bob Tougher stated the person may not be required to pay dues, however, would become a member.

Jim Pineo stated the language will probably get flagged by DRA.

John MacDonald asked if the cost includes a single-family health plan.

Jim Pineo stated no, it includes a family plan and retirement costs.

Tom Bell asked if the road mileage would increase as a result of the additional employee.

Dave Ford stated the BOS have received petitions to take over private roads however those petitions are on hold because there would be a reduction of service if additional roads are taken over.

Tom Bell asked what a snowplow operator currently performs.

Dave Ford stated employees are kept to a 3-hour route.

Bob Loughman asked if the expanded roads are private roads.

Dave Ford replied yes, however the Town does not have the ability to take over those roads without additional personnel.

Bob Loughman stated he feels the language of the warrant article should include the purpose which is for the expansion of services for private roads.

Dave Ford stated it allows the ability to take on additional services/roads.

Bob Loughman stated he cannot support the article without the clarification in language.

Bob Tougher asked if there are different property values for homes on private roads; noting additional tax revenue for roads that become public.

Jim Pineo stated he confirmed with the assessor that there is a reduction for being on a private road versus a public road therefore, there would be additional tax revenue.

Peter Goodwin stated he spoke with Mr. Ford who stated that adding a mile of road would put the Public Works Department beyond what they can manage and noted that such presents a safety issue. He stated the vehicle and individual requested will present more safety for the drivers and there will be no issues with vehicle reserves.

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by Tom Bell to recommend Article 28. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (6-2-0).

Article 29: Library Landscaping

\$250,000

Jim Pineo read Article 29. He introduced the Committee to Amanda King, Library Director.

It was moved by Tom Bell and seconded by Bob Tougher to recommend Article 29. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 30: Fire Trucks and Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund

\$196,000

Jim Pineo read Article 30.

Bob Loughman questioned the balance of the fund.

Kathy Carpentier replied \$278,000.

Bob Loughman questioned the amount and when the next purchase is scheduled.

Tom Zotti replied \$700,000 in 2024.

It was moved by Tom Bell and seconded by Bob Moholland to recommend Article 30. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 31: Public Works Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

\$185,000

Jim Pineo read Article 31.

Bob Loughman questioned the balance of the fund.

Kathy Carpentier replied \$181,000 however, the Department made a recent purchase.

Dave Ford stated a vehicle was purchased this year rather than next year due to the low cost of that vehicle. He noted the bailer recently failed and a new one will need to be purchased this year.

Bob Loughman questioned the cost for the bailer.

Dave Ford replied \$85,000.

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by Tom Bell to recommend Article 31. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 32: Establish a Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund **\$75,000**
Jim Pineo read Article 32.

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by Tom Bell to recommend Article 32. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 33: Abenaki Ski Area Capital Reserve Fund **\$20,000**
Jim Pineo read Article 33.

Steve Johnson questioned the balance of the fund.

Kathy Carpentier replied \$131,000.

It was moved by Bob Moholland and seconded by Bob Loughman to recommend Article 33. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 34: Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund **\$50,000**
Jim Pineo read Article 34.

Kathy Carpentier stated the current balance of the fund is \$156,000.

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by Tom Bell to recommend Article 34. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 35: Pop Whalen Contingency Funds **\$50,000**
Jim Pineo read Article 35. He stated this warrant article replaces the Police Department's Dispatch Console warrant article.

Bob Moholland confirmed the funds will not be spent if Article 11 passes.

It was moved by Tom Bell seconded by Bob Tougher to recommend Article 35. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 36: Dockside Parking Lot Capital Reserve Fund **\$100,000**
Jim Pineo read Article 36.

Bob Loughman questioned the balance of the fund.

Kathy Carpentier replied \$153,000.

Bob Loughman confirmed the article would be discontinued once the project has been completed.

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by Steve Johnson to recommend Article 36. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 37: Wastewater Treatment Plant Capital Reserve Fund **\$175,000**
Jim Pineo read Article 37.

It was moved by Tom Bell and seconded by Bob Moholland to recommend Article 37. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Article 38: Water Resources Non-Capital Reserve Fund **\$50,000**
Jim Pineo read Article 38.

It was moved by Tom Bell and seconded by Bob Tougher to recommend Article 38. Roll call vote: Bob Tougher – yes, Tom Bell – yes, John MacDonald – yes, Matt Plache – yes, Bob Moholland – yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Brian Black – yes, Bob Loughman – yes. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

III. Other Business

- Budget Deliberative Session scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 7 PM at the Kingswood Arts Center, the snow date is scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2022. Masks are required.

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by Tom Bell to adjourn the January 13, 2022 Budget Committee Public Hearing. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lee Ann Hendrickson
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