

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes of 02/09/09
5:40 p.m.

Selectmen:

Peter F. Brothers, Chairman
Miller C. Lovett, Vice Chairman
Robert C. Flanders
Charles G. Palm
Colette Worsman

Co-Interim Town Managers:

John C. Edgar
Brenda L. Vittner

Recording Clerk:

Karin Landry

Call to Order: Chairman Peter Brothers called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. He introduced the Board, Co-Interim Town Managers, and the Recording Clerk, and made announcements pertaining to fire exits, listening assisted devices, the use of microphones, and cell phones.

ACCEPTANCE AND/OR CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

09-09 Minutes of the January 20, 2009 Workshop, and the January 26, 2009 Workshop and Regular Meeting.

Selectman Palm motioned to accept the minutes of the January 20, 2009 Workshop, and the January 26, 2009 Workshop and Regular Meeting. Seconded by Selectman Flanders.

January 20, 2009 Workshop: 4-0-0. (Selectman Worsman abstained - Absent with Notice). Motion passed.

January 26, 2009 Workshop and Regular Meeting: 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

INTERIM TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

The server for the Town offices has been repaired. The backup server performed as it should, and IT Specialist Eric Ferland is in the process of transferring everything back to the main server.

The Chair publicly thanked Co-Interim Town Manager Brenda Vittner and Eric Ferland for their efforts in getting the server back in service.

VISITOR'S AND RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Resident Steve Merrill expressed his concerns regarding the proposed increase in the boat launch fees. The increase may harm local businesses and detract visitors from Meredith. He is not in favor of raising the fee.

SELECTMENS COMMENTS:

At the request of Selectman Palm, Ms. Vittner explained why a two-month water bill was issued for November and December. The bill was issued to effect the recommendation of the Water Study Committee that the billing cycle coincide with the calendar quarter. Doing so will allow for better tracking of seasonal water use. Chair Brothers directed Ms. Vittner to include an explanation for the change in the billing cycle in the Town Manager's Report that is published in the local paper.

NEW BUSINESS:

09-10 2009 Town Warrant with Petitioned Warrant Articles

ARTICLE 1:

To bring your ballots for: Selectman – Two (2) for Three (3) years; Trustee of Trust Funds – One (1) for Three (3) years; Library Trustees – Four (4) for Three (3) years.

ARTICLE 2

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Meredith Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Article V, Establishment of Districts and District Regulations, to (1) establish standards for determining the location of a zoning district boundary from the zoning map and (2) allow the owner of a lot split by a zoning district boundary to use each portion of the lot per each district's zoning or the option of utilizing the whole property for single and two-family uses under the zoning applicable to the larger portion by special exception.

ARTICLE 3

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB 2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Town of Meredith on the second Tuesday of March?

(Petitioned by 25 or more registered voters or 2% of the registered voters in town, whichever is less)

(Passage requires an affirmative 3/5 majority ballot vote)

A public hearing on Article 3 is scheduled for Monday, February 23, at 5:30. It will be held in meeting room B of the Community Center.

ARTICLE 4

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to donate or sell a .27 acre piece of property located on the corner of Westbury Road and Neal Shore Road and identified in the Town's tax maps as Map U1-Lot 1A, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may negotiate.

Article 4 has been reworded to allow the Board to donate the property or use it as an opportunity for revenue.

Selectman Flanders moved that the Board recommend the passage of Article 4. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. 5-0. All in favor. Motioned passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 5

Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I(b) to authorize the conservation commission to expend funds for contributions to 'qualified organizations' for the purchase of property interests, or facilitating transactions related thereto, where the property interest is to be held by the qualified organization and the Town will retain no interest in the property?

Selectman Lovett moved that the Board support Article 5 as read. Seconded by Selectman Palm. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 6

Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I(a) to authorize the conservation commission to expend funds to purchase interests in land outside the boundaries of our municipality, subject to the approval of the local governing body?

Selectman Worsman does not support Article 6 because she has reservations about any kind of use of public funds outside the district.

Selectman Flanders moved to support Article 6 as read. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 4-1. Motion passed.

ARTICLE 7

To see if the Town will vote to modify the previously adopted provision of RSA 72:62, the solar energy exemption from property tax, to adjust the exemption so that it is equal to the cost, including installation, of the solar energy system up to \$20,000 in value.

The original provision adopted at Town meeting for the solar energy exemption did not include a cap. Article 7 moves the focus of the exemption from assessed costs to construction costs, and puts a cap on the exemption.

Selectman Worsman moved to support Article 7 as read. Seconded by Selectman Palm. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 8

To see if the Town will vote to modify the previously adopted provision of RSA 72:66, the wind energy exemption from property tax, to adjust the exemption so that it is equal to the cost, including installation, of the wind energy system up to \$20,000 in value.

The original provision adopted at Town meeting for the wind energy exemption did not include a cap. Article 8 moves the focus of the exemption from assessed costs to construction costs, and puts a cap on the exemption.

Selectman Flanders moved to support Article 8 as read. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 9

To see if the voters of the Town of Meredith will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500.00 (Five Hundred Dollars) to benefit the Center Harbor Soup Kitchen, a Lakes Region community organization, housed at the Center Harbor Congregational Church.

(Petitioned by 25 or more registered voters or 2% of the registered voters in town, whichever is less)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen _____)

Voting on Article 9 is deferred until further clarification is obtained from DRA.

ARTICLE 10

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Downtown Parking Expendable Trust created in 1999. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to the Town's General Fund. (Majority Vote Required).

Ms. Vittner will obtain clarification from DRA and legal counsel on additional wording that will indicate the interdependent nature of Articles 10, 11, and 12.

Selectman Flanders moved to support Article 10 as read. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 11

To see if the Town will vote to create an Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the Meredith Parking Expendable Trust, for the purpose of providing additional parking within Meredith and to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred and

Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) to come from the Unreserved Fund Balance for this fund and to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. This sum represents a portion of the amount from the discontinued Downtown Parking Expendable Trust in Article #10. Consideration of this Article is contingent upon the affirmative passage of Article #10.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen _____)

Selectman Worsman moved to adopt Article 11 as read. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 12

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$115,000.00), for the purpose of completing the rehabilitation of the Prescott Park Parking Lot. Said sum, is to come from the unreserved Fund Balance, which represents a portion of the amount from the discontinued Downtown Parking Expendable Trust in Article #10. Consideration of this Article is contingent upon the affirmative passage of Article #10.

Selectman Lovett moved the adoption of Article 12. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 13

To see if the Town will vote to create an Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the Groundwater Source Study Expendable Trust, for the purpose of studying the possible alternatives for water sources within the Town of Meredith, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Six Thousand Dollars (\$26,000.00) for this fund and to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen _____)

The talking points will include looking at alternatives recommended by the Water Study Committee.

Selectman Flanders moved to adopt Article 13 as read. Second by Selectman Lovett. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 14

To see if the Town will vote to create an Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the Parks & Recreation Facilities Improvements Expendable Trust Fund, for the purpose of improvements to the Parks & Recreation Facilities within the Town of Meredith, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) for this fund and to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen _____)

Article 14 will allow money to be set aside for soft costs relating to improvements to Child’s Park, including design work. Child’s Park is the number one priority of Parks & Recreation.

Selectman Lovett moved the adoption of Article 14. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 15

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to be added to the Water Improvements Expendable Trust Fund previously established. The Board of Selectmen are agents to expend.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen _____)

The Water Study Committee has gathered enough information to recommend moving forward in a specific direction with water system improvements. The Talking Points for Article 15 will include a discussion of the Water Study Committee recommendations.

ARTICLE 16

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00) to be added to the Waterfront Infrastructure Expendable Trust Fund previously established. The Board of Selectmen are agents to expend.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen _____)

Selectman Flanders motioned to recommend Article 16 as read. Seconded by Selectman Palm. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 17

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to be added to the Main Street Rehab Expendable Trust Fund previously established. The Board of Selectmen are agents to expend.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen _____)

Selectman Worsman moved to adopt Article 17 as read. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 18

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to be added to the Employee Benefits Expendable Trust Fund previously established. The Board of Selectmen are agents to expend.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen _____)

Selectman Flanders moved to recommend Article 18 as read. Seconded by Selectman Palm. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 19

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) to improve various town roads that are eligible for 2 to 1 matching funds from the State Aid Reconstruction Program, contingent upon the receipt of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) of that amount from the State, with the balance of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be raised by taxation.

Selectman Worsman moved to adopt Article 19 as read. Seconded by Selectman Palm. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 20

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Four Thousand, Eight Hundred and Five dollars and fifty six cents (\$24,805.56) from the Cable Franchise Fee Special Revenue Fund for the necessary cable franchise operational expenses of the Town for 2009.

The franchise agreement with Metrocast was renewed in 2000 and is effective through 2013. Each year the Town receives revenue from franchise fees paid by Metrocast customers ranging from \$45,000 to \$55,000. The money is placed in the Cable Franchise Fee Special Revenue Fund. Article 20 allows for the withdrawal of funds to be used for Lakes Region Public Access Fees and expenses related to running the equipment. A line item in the amount of \$2,500 is included this year to upgrade the microphone system. Article 20 has no impact on the tax rate.

Selectman Flanders moved to approve Article 20 as read. Seconded by Selectman Palm. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 21

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Million, Four Hundred Forty Three Thousand, Eight Hundred Sixteen Dollars and ninety seven cents, (\$12,443,816.97) for the necessary operational expenses of the Town for the ensuing year's budget. This amount does not include all of the amounts raised and appropriated in previous warrant articles.

Selectman Palm motioned to approve the Town Budget in the amount of \$12,679,816.97. This includes all Articles previously discussed with the exception of Articles 9 and 20. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. 5-0. All in favor motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Flanders moved to approve Article 21 as read. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

The Chair thanked all those who worked on the 2009 budget and Warrant Articles including employees, department heads, the Co-Interim Town Managers, and the Board. He thanked the public for their input. The Board believes they have put together a responsible budget that the voters can embrace. The 2009 budget represents a 1.9% reduction from last year's budget. It will be presented to the voters at Town Meeting in March.

ADJOURNMENT:

Selectman Palm motioned to close the Regular meeting of the Board and move back into a Non-Public Meeting under 91-A:3 II (b) and (e) at 6:20 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Flanders. Selectmen polled. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Edgar, Co-Interim Town Mgr.

Peter F. Brothers, Chairman

Brenda L. Vittner, Co-Interim Town Mgr.

Miller C. Lovett, Vice Chairman

Karin Landry, Recording Clerk

Robert C. Flanders

Charles G. Palm

Colette Worsman