

SELECTMEN'S WORKSHOP
Minutes of 2-09-09
4:30 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 4:30 p.m. He introduced the Board, Co-Interim Town Managers, and the Recording Clerk.

W09-05 2009 Town Warrant

The Board reviewed the most recent version of the Town Warrant, which includes changes that were incorporated by legal counsel and the Department of Revenue Administration ("DRA"). The draft includes minor changes in the wording of various articles. The substantial changes include:

Article 9: The Center Harbor Soup Kitchen submitted a petitioned Warrant Article with the signatures of the required number of registered voters. It reads: "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." The Board is required to make a recommendation for a petitioned Article.

Downtown Parking Expendable Trust Fund. In order to accomplish the discontinuation of the Downtown Parking Expendable Trust Fund and effect a \$100,000.00 reduction in the 2009 budget, three separate Warrant Articles must be approved by a majority vote:

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.

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.

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.

The talking points will make it clear that the passage of Articles 10, 11, and 12 is necessary in order to accomplish a \$100,000 reduction in the 2009 budget. Co-Interim Town Manager Brenda Vittner will investigate if language can be added to Article 10 referencing the interdependent nature of Articles 10, 11, and 12. Visual aids will be used at Town Meeting in order to help voters understand that the funds are moving from one "bucket" to another. The three Articles will be explained at one time.

Article 20: The Article was amended to include a clear reference to the special revenue fund and a clear purpose for the operational expenses.

Selectman Worsman asked that each page of the Warrant be marked with the appropriate revision date. A public hearing is scheduled for Monday, February 23, on the SB 2 petitioned Warrant Article and the increase of Solid Waste sticker fees and boat launch fees.

Dialogue ensued regarding Article 9. Selectmen Flanders expressed concerns with setting precedence by recommending a petitioned Article without the assessment and vetting that is normally accomplished during the budget process. Selectman Palm and Chair Brothers agreed. They acknowledge the need for the Soup Kitchen, but are concerned with the process. Selectman Worsman is concerned that a recommendation by the Board against the Article will shut down any chance of it being passed at Town Meeting. Selectman Lovett would be disturbed if the Board doesn't support what the Soup Kitchen is doing, and suggested raising the \$500 in another way. Ms. Vittner will investigate if the Board can abstain from a recommendation on a petitioned article.

W 09-07 Revenue/Fees Discussion

During the budget process, department heads were asked to review fee structures in order to generate additional revenues. An increase in Solid Waste stickers and boat launch fees has been proposed by the respective department heads. The Co-Interim Town Managers recommend the fee increases. A public hearing on the proposed increases will be held on Monday, February 23. If approved, the fees will become effective in 30 days.

Public Works Director Mike Faller overviewed the proposed increase in Solid Waste fees. The fee for the first decal will be raised from \$10 to \$20 dollars for a two-year period. There is no charge for a second decal for the same household. Each additional decal after the first two is \$20. A booklet of ten coupons can be substituted for the second decal at no charge. A booklet of 20

coupons can be purchased for \$20. The fee for daily use will be raised from \$1 to \$2. Additional revenues for the two-year stickers will be generated beginning this year.

Police Chief Kevin Morrow overviewed the proposed increase in boat launch fees. The fee for non-stickered vehicles will be increased from \$10 to \$20. Although the boat launch charge has been \$10 for some time, the language in the Ordinance does not clearly reflect the approval of the charge by a previous Board. Chief Morrow suggests adding language to the boat launch section of the Ordinance regarding fees. The Chief will draft appropriate language prior to the public hearing.

Dialogue ensued regarding fees generated from the disposal of fluorescent lighting. The fee is currently based on linear foot, which is hard to translate to the curly bulbs that are becoming more popular. Selectman Flanders suggested a flat fee for disposing of any fluorescent bulb. Co-Interim Town Manager John Edgar pointed out the importance of properly disposing of hazardous materials. Mike Faller will obtain more information on the current procedure for disposing of fluorescent lighting.

There was a consensus among the Board to support the proposed fee increases.

Selectman Flanders motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. 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