

SELECTMEN'S WORKSHOP
Minutes of 02-17-09
4:10 p.m.

<i>Selectmen:</i>		<i>Peter F. Brothers, Chairman</i> <i>Miller C. Lovett, Vice Chairman</i>
	<i>(Absent)</i>	<i>Robert C. Flanders</i> <i>Charles G. Palm</i> <i>Colette Worsman</i>
<i>Co-Interim Town Managers:</i>	<i>(Absent)</i>	<i>John C. Edgar</i> <i>Brenda L. Vittner</i>
<i>Recording Clerk:</i>		<i>Karin Landry</i>

Call to Order: Chairman Peter Brothers called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. He introduced the Board, Co-Interim Town Manager, and the Recording Clerk.

W 09-08 Town Meeting Talking Points

The Board reviewed the February 17, 2009 draft version of the 2009 Warrant Articles including points to consider for each Article. The written material will be posted on the website once it is in final form, and will be available at the polls the day before Town Meeting.

Article 4:

There has been recent interest in the purchase of the property at the corner of Westbury and Neal Shore Road. Supporting affordable housing was identified as one of the Town's goals at the time the property was acquired in 1996. The dramatic changes in economy since that time, and the fact that a number of affordable housing units will be coming on-line in 2010, will be considered by the Board. Ms. Vittner will investigate if the appraised value (\$40,000) includes correcting the easement on the property.

Article 5:

3. Change "clarify for conservation commissions that ability" to "clarify for conservation commissions the ability."
5. The Board of Selectmen are agents to expend for expendable trust funds. If funds are expended from the Open Space ETF (as opposed to the Conservation Commission's operating budget), the Board will have to act upon the matter. Additional language will be added to #5 indicating that action by the Board of Selectmen is required if funding is to come from the Open Space ETF.
6. Change "another organization" to "other organizations"; and "use of your conservation dollars" to "use of conservation dollars."

7. An example will be provided.

Ms. Vittner will review RSA 36 to determine if there is a value in referencing Article #6.

Article 6:

3. Additional language will be added indicating that the law requires concurring approval from the governing body (Board of Selectmen) before expending funds whether coming out of the Conservation Commission's operating budget or the Open Space Expendable Trust Fund.
5. An example will be provided. The Chair suggested that the Snake River is a good example of a circumstance where it is prudent to protect land not within our boundaries that inflows into our water source.

Ms. Vittner will review RSA 36 to determine if there is a value to referencing Article #5.

Article 7:

1. Delete "and RSA 72:66" and "and wind-powered energy systems." There are currently six residents receiving the solar energy exemption. Ms. Vittner will clarify if the exemption is limited to residential applications.

Article 8:

1. Delete "RSA 72:62 and" and "solar energy systems and." There are no residents receiving wind-powered energy systems at this time. Ms. Vittner will clarify if the exemption is limited to residential applications.

Article 9:

United Way has agreed to fund \$500 for the Center Harbor Soup Kitchen. The petitioned Warrant Article must be included on the Warrant, unless each individual who signed the petition signs a petition to remove, or a representative rescinds the petition on the floor at Town Meeting. Ms. Vittner will relay the information to Michelle Taft, who approached the Board on behalf of the Soup Kitchen. She will provide Ms. Taft with information regarding the Board's vetting process for next year. The Board would like to know the number of Meredith residents served by the Program for next year's review process.

Article 10:

3. Delete "and" at end of sentence.
5. Change "with concurrence for the Town's attorney" to "with concurrence from the Town's attorney."

Article 11:

The creation of the Meredith Parking Expendable Trust gives the Board flexibility to consider options for public parking outside the downtown area.

Article 12:

2. Ms. Vittner will provide the existing capacity for the Prescott Park Parking Lot.
5. Parks & Recreation Director Vint Choiniere will determine whether the fall of '09 or the spring of '10 is the best time for the work to begin.

The project will go out to bid this year. When the bid specifications were written in November '08, it was determined that \$115,000 is a reasonable sum for rehabilitation of the Parking Lot.

Article 13:

1. Amend the language to reflect that the Water Study Committee has recommended examining ground water as an option for providing redundancy in the system.
3. Change "The \$26,000.00 an initial installment" to "The \$26,000 is an initial installment."
4. Ms. Vittner will verify if the balance to complete the funding will come out of the reserve fund as opposed to the Water Department budget. If so, the Talking Point will be deleted.
5. Change "At the conclusion of Phase II" to "At the conclusion of any phase of the study" and delete "with a turn-key cost of \$XXXX."

Article 14:

1. Change "address the needs of the various facilities" to "address the needs of their various facilities."

Article 15:

6. Add a reference to the report of the Chairman of the Water Study Committee in the Annual Report.

Dialogue ensued regarding how the Talking Points will be used by the Board. There was a general consensus that they should be included in the written material provided to the voters. The written material will be available several weeks before Town Meeting.

Article 16:

1. Amend the wording to reflect that the re-naming of the Boardwalk Expendable Trust Fund to the Waterfront Infrastructure Expendable Trust Fund was approved by the voters at the 2008 Town Meeting.
2. Add additional language to refer to the latest cost estimate by Public Works Director Mike Faller of \$125,000, and amend the wording from “A critical project” to “A critical initial project.”

Article 17:

- 1, Change “The Main Street Rehabilitation Expendable Trust Fund was created in 2008” to “The Main Street Rehabilitation Expendable Trust Fund was approved at the 2008 Town Meeting.” Due to an oversight, the funding for the Expendable Trust remained in the General Fund until December 31, 2008. Ms. Vittner will calculate the interest accumulated in the General Fund and transfer that amount to the Expendable Trust Fund. Talking Point 1 will be amended to include the updated balance, including principal and interest.
- 2, Change “currently has a priority listing date of 2011” to “currently has a targeted date of 2011 by the Capital Improvements Committee.”

Article 18:

Ms. Vittner will add language to the Talking Points to clarify that the Fund has been historically funded at a percentage of our unfunded liability. Ms. Vittner will research to what degree the Trust has been funded in the past.

Article 19:

3. Add “such as 104 and 106” to the end of the sentence.
5. Ms. Vittner will clarify with DOT which account carries a balance of \$461,000, and verify the amount.
6. Add “contingent upon priorities as established by the state.” Add additional language to indicate that the Town has identified Meredith Center Rd. as a priority for the use of the funds.

Article 20:

2. Add “for the last five years.” to the end of the sentence.

Ms. Vittner will pull the original Warrant Article to determine when the Cable Franchise Fee Special Revenue Fund was established and clarify how the revenue can be used.

Article 21:

The figure that was presented at the public hearing for the necessary operational expenses of the Town for the 2009 budget did not include a reduction for Article 19, the State Aid Reconstruction Program. The amended figure is \$12,383,816.97.

2. Amend the language to exclude Article 19 and add an additional Talking Point indicating that the funds for Article 19 are included in Article 21.

Ms. Vittner will review all written materials and make amendments to reflect the inclusion of the funds for Article 19 in Article 21.

Dialogue ensued regarding the format for Town Meeting. There was a consensus among the Board that the meeting should begin with a presentation by the Chair that will set forth the considerations made by the Board in order to present a responsible budget to the voters. He will make clear that Articles 10, 11, & 12 are incumbent upon the affirmative passage of one another, and that the budget is dependent on an increase in revenue that will result from their passage.

The Board ended with a conversation regarding the potential impacts of the State budget and the federal stimulus bill. The state budget and stimulus bill will be monitored through the official channels that are available to the Town.

The Greater Meredith Program will moderate and host a panel on SB 2 on March 3, at 7 p.m. at Church Landing. The forum is meant to be balanced, informative and factual.

Ms. Vittner investigated RSA 41:9 and determined that once the Town passes the establishment of fees, it can follow any vote of the Board to establish or amend fees or charges. The affirmative passage of Article 28 at the 1990 Town Meeting enabled the Board to establish fees.

Selectman Worsman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 4-0-0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda L. Vittner, Co-Interim Town Mgr.

Peter F. Brothers, Chairman

Karin Landry, Recording Clerk

Miller C. Lovett, Vice Chairman

Charles G. Palm

Colette Worsman