

Present: Dorianne Almann, Bruce Bellville, Michael Carrier, Joe Conroy, Mike Darcy (Selectmen's rep), John Hartnett, Mo Klein, James MacDonell, Lewis Major, Tina McCosker (school board rep), Peter Zavorotny.

Mr. Zavorotny called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

He said the committee had a couple of articles on which they needed to act. Article 7 (leasing of the backhoe) as detailed on the handout TA Collins made available to the committee has a different figure than that originally discussed. The Department of Revenue Administration says that reserve monies cannot be used except on the final payment. Mr. Klein asked about attachments, saying he didn't see them referenced in the article. Mr. Zavorotny said, "They're included." Mr. Conroy made a motion to recommend and was seconded by Mr. MacDonell. The motion passed with one nay (Mr. Bellville).

Mr. Zavorotny moved to discussion of Article 14. He told the committee that a representative from the bus company briefed the selectmen at their Monday meeting. Mr. Conroy said that tax money is being used to run the bus. He told the committee that the bus company rep told the selectmen that 6,900 people ride the bus. Since the fare is just \$1, raising the fee to \$2 would just about cover the \$15,000 the town is being asked to contribute.

TA Collins spoke up, saying that the costs to run the bus are in excess of \$55,000. Funding comes from various sources including from the State of New Hampshire (which contributes about \$12,000). Annually, the Hinsdale route runs at a deficit of about \$11,000. She told the committee that a memorandum of understanding between the town and the bus company is expected to be signed with the town getting the service for free next year if the company does not live up to the promises it made to advertise the service and increase ridership. Mr. Hartnett asked how people will get to work if the bus service is discontinued. TA Collins said that people ride the bus from downtown Hinsdale. The Welfare Administrator gives clients a copy of the bus schedule; she no longer needs to give out gas vouchers since people can use the bus to get to job interviews. Mr. Conroy wondered why there are no routes in North Hinsdale.

Mr. Hartnett made a motion to recommend Article 14 Bus Service; he was seconded by Mr. Bellville. There were nine aye's; Mr. Conroy voted nay.

The new figure in Article 6 Cops Grant Acceptance; Even though this article did not reference a dollar amount, the committee decided to go on record concerning the plan. Mr. Major made a motion to recommend the article. He was seconded by Mr. MacDonell and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Zavorotny asked Ms. McCosker about Article 2 of the school's warrants; she replied that the school board had not yet finalized the figure but they were meeting that evening.

At 6:30 pm Mr. Zavorotny declared the public hearing for the school board open.

Business Manager Tom O'Connor discussed Article 1 (operating budget) of \$11,985,367 and Article 2 (building maintenance fund). Article 2 saw the fund to be added to the school building maintenance fund reduced to \$50,000 from \$100,000. Mr. MacDonell made a motion to recommend the article, was seconded by Mr. Conroy, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Zavorotny said the school's budget is \$72,000+ less than last year's; \$173,000 is to be raised by taxes. While budget spending is less, income is less, so money needs to be raised through taxes. If you look through the school budget, Mr. Zavorotny continued, you'll see that \$5 million of the \$11 million budget is salaries. Benefits account for \$2.4 million. Thus, \$7-1/2 million goes to salaries and benefits. This translates to the tax bill on a house valued at \$100,000 increasing by about \$50.

Article 2 (school roof repairs) will not raise taxes. There is currently \$106,000 in the fund. The cost to repair the remaining two roofs is roughly \$200,000. After adding the \$50,000 called for by Article 2, the remaining funding would come from 2013's appropriation if available.

A member of the public asked if the repairs were being discussed were for the roof of the renovated school. No, responded Dr. Crisafulli. Three sections were done last year. Competitive bids were received. There are two sections remaining.

With no more questions, Mr. Zavorotny said the committee would wait for 7 pm when the hearing on the town budget would start. At 7 pm he started the public hearing with a discussion of the town's articles high points.

Article 2: Mr. Zavorotny noted there have been several public meetings on Monument Road with discussion on work planned from Plain to Meetinghouse Roads. A member of the public asked about \$800,000 for a water line. Mr. Darcy spoke up said a water line is not planned for the Plain to Meetinghouse Roads section. Another member of the public asked about whether money for sidewalks is included. Yes, responded TA Collins. Is the sidewalk elevated was another question from the public. No, said TA Collins. Mr. Conroy spoke up, saying the town easement is 50'. Since the road will be 30', no property will be taken for any road repair.

With no more questions, Mr. Zavorotny discussed Article 3. The article refers to money for all town offices, excluding water and sewer; the amount requested decreased from last

year. The town's fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. In simple terms Mr. Zavorotny explained that money is collected from various sources (including taxes), is used to pay bills. Money is put into the bank and some money in the unreserved fund is used to reduce taxes. A member of the public asked how much was in the unreserved fund. TA Collins replied she did not know; however, the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) has rules on how much money can be in the fund. As a point of clarification, Mr. Schill pointed out that the DRA offers as a *guideline* that three to five percent be maintained in the unreserved fund; this is not a law.

A member of the public asked if the Water Department is running a deficit. No, replied TA Collins. Is the Waste Water Department running OK? Yes, replied TA Collins. Another member of the public spoke up, saying he had heard that the facility was nearing capacity. Robert Johnson, head of the department was in the audience and said the facility's situation hasn't changed--it is at 80% capacity. "There's not alot of room for expansion."

With no more questions, Mr. Zavorotny moved to Article 6, saying that it did not need to be discussed as it is not an appropriation.

When discussion on Article 7 began, a member of the public asked if the equipment would be leased (no) and if the current machine would be sold (yes). Mr. Zavorotny said the attachment (a woodpecker) being considered is \$17,000. There is 5,100 hours on the town's machine. A member of the audience asked if this is alot. Another audience member spoke up saying his backhoe has 10,000 hours, although he agreed that his machine isn't worked as hard as the town's backhoe.

Article 8: The amount was cut from \$80,000 to \$40,000. Mr. Darcy noted it will cost about \$72,000 to do all necessary repairs on the pumper truck.

Article 9: A member of the public asked what type of apparatus is being considered. Mr. Darcy said the equipment is specifically for vehicles.

Article 10: When asked by a member of the public why the Budget Committee did not recommend this article, Mr. Zavorotny replied that buying two new cruisers is "an extravagance the town can't afford now."

Article 11: Will be passed over if Article 2 passes.

Article 12: Budget Committee recommended the article as it seems appropriate to replace the vehicle. A member of the public asked which figure in the article was the typo--the

\$13,584 or the twenty-seven thousand, one hundred sixty-eight dollars. TA Collins replied the twenty-seven thousand figure is the typo.

Article 13: A member of the public asked how much money is currently in the fund. TA Collins replied \$42,000. Selectman Wayne Gallager said the equipment (breathing apparatus) has a life expectancy of two years. Does the town have enough equipment for all firefighters, a member of the public asked. Yes.

Article 14: The article originally was not included; however, the manager of the bus service made a presentation to the selectmen, detailing "a strong plan." A member of the public asked who is paying for signage. The bus company. Mr. Darcy spoke up, saying the town and a representative from the bus service would be signing a memorandum of understanding stipulating the town will not be charged is the bus company "does not do what they said they'd do."

Article 15: Mr. Zavorotny pointed out that if the town doesn't accept the grant, the town will have to pay the \$10,000.

Article 16: \$5,000 is to be added to the Community Center Building Improvement Fund.

With all the articles noted, Mr. Zavorotny asked if anyone had any comments.

A member of the public asked about the police station, wanting to know if the process to have it built had to start again. No, Mr. Zavorotny replied. Mr. MacDonell spoke up, noting the architectural drawings haven't yet been finished. TA Collins said the design work had been sent out to bid with the request being posted in the **Manchester Union Leader**.

With no additional comments or questions, Mr. Zavoronty declared the public meeting closed at 7:36 pm.

Mr. Major made a motion for Final Approval of all budget and warrant items. He was seconded by Mr. Carrier. The motion passed unanimously.

With the meeting at an end, Mr. MacDonell made a motion to adjourn. He was seconded by Mr. Major. The meeting ended at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Dorianne Almann
Recording Secretary