

DRAFT

Town of Weare Finance Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of January 16, 2013

This meeting of the Finance Committee was held in the Conservation Committee Room of the Town Office and was called to order by the chairman at 7 p.m.

Present were Chuck Bolton, Kate Cloud (chairman), Jill Dagenais, Gregg Elwood, Johnna Gryzwacz, Neal Kurk, Paul Marsh, Ike Shepard, Jeff Spring and Matt Whitlock. Also in attendance was Tom Clow, chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

1. **Minutes:** on a motion by Paul, seconded by Jeff, the minutes of January 9, 2013, were approved.

2. **Resignation:** Chuck Bolton resigned from the committee.

3. **Town warrant:** in preparation for the town deliberative session the Committee discussed each of the town warrant articles which had a tax impact.

a. Art. 6 (town budget) The Committee reaffirmed its support for the proposed budget if the police department overtime line were reduced from \$110,000 to \$90,000, as the MRI report suggests there is sufficient management flexibility to accomplish this. However, at this time, the Committee voted 7 - 2 NOT TO RECOMMEND Art. 6. (Blurb: Kate)

b. Art. 4 (highway garage) The Committee voted 9 – 0 TO RECOMMEND this bond issue, noting the necessity for replacing the deteriorated and dangerous current structure and today's low interest rates. (Blurb: Johnna)

c. Art. 5 (bridge bond) The Committee voted 9 – 0 TO RECOMMEND this bond in order to take advantage of 80% state cost-sharing and today's low interest rates. (Blurb: Ike)

d. Art. 7 (highway union contract) The Committee voted 9 – 0 TO RECOMMEND this one-year contract, which includes a 5% pay increase (the first in five years) and the institution of 5% employee cost sharing on health insurance premiums. (Blurb: Jeff)

e. Art. 8 (police union contract) The Committee voted 9 – 0 TO RECOMMEND this one-year contract, which includes a 3.5% COLA plus step increases and a 5% health insurance cost sharing. (Blurb: Neal)

f. Art. 9 (fire department standby pay) The Committee voted 8 – 1 NOT TO RECOMMEND this article, as there was no evidence that it would be necessary considering the pay raises proposed in Art. 10. (Blurb: Jill)

g. Art 10 (fire department pay increase) The Committee voted 8 – 1 TO RECOMMEND this article to raise and to introduce pay equity to the existing wage scale. (Blurb: Jill)

h. Art. 11 (non-union pay raises) A motion to not recommend this article failed on a 4 – 5 vote. The Committee voted 5 – 4 TO RECOMMEND this article, which provides sufficient funds for a 3% average pay raise which the Selectmen intend to grant on a merit basis. (Blurb: Gregg)

i. Art. 12 (fire department turn-out gear) The Committee was informed that a grant for much of this equipment was moving forward. A motion to recommend the article failed on a 4 – 5 vote. A motion NOT TO RECOMMEND the article passed on a 5 – 4 vote. (Blurb: Johnna)

j. Art. 13 (EMT stretcher, Lucas CPR device, infusion pumps) The Committee voted 8 – 1 TO RECOMMEND this article, as the equipment would reduce EMT injuries and provide better medical care to ambulance patients. (Blurb: Johnna)

k. Art. 14 (road reconstruction) The Committee voted 8 – 0 – 1 TO RECOMMEND this article, which accepts state funds and raises tax dollars to maintain and improve town roads. (Blurb: Jeff)

l. Art. 15 (highway trucks) The Committee voted 7 – 2 NOT TO RECOMMEND this article. (Blurb: Gregg)

m. Art. 16 (transfer station revolving fund) The Committee voted 9 – 0 NOT TO RECOMMEND this article, as it put transfer station equipment purchasing decisions out of taxpayers' control. (Blurb: Kate)

n. Art. 17 (police cruiser) The Committee was divided on this article, with motions to recommend and not to recommend each tying at 4 – 4 – 1. (Blurb: Paul)

o. Art. 18 (police cruiser laptop computers) The Committee voted 6 – 2 – 1 TO RECOMMEND this article, as the current laptops were five years old. (Blurb: Johnna)

p. Art. 19 (police filing system) The Committee voted 9 – 0 NOT TO RECOMMEND this article, as this is a relatively low-priority need for the department. (Blurb: Matt)

q. Art. 20 (town building and maintenance fund) The Committee voted 8 – 0 – 1 TO RECOMMEND this article, which provides

money for essential known improvements (a new town office building roof) and unknown emergency repairs (a new boiler last year). (Blurb: Kate)

r. Art. 21 (cemetery stones) The Committee voted 8 – 1 TO RECOMMEND this article, but will seek clarifying information to determine if this expenditure was more appropriately paid from the Cy Pres Account. (Blurb: Neal)

s. Art. 22 (cemetery improvements) The Committee voted 9 – 0 TO RECOMMEND this article in order to continue a long-standing practice. (Blurb: Ike)

t. Art. 23 (hazardous waste) The Committee voted 9 – 0 TO RECOMMEND this article. (Blurb: Jeff)

u. Art. 24 (patriotic celebration fireworks) A motion not to recommend this article failed on a 3 – 6 vote. The Committee then voted 6 – 3 TO RECOMMEND this article. (Blurb: Ike)

v. Art. 25 (conservation timber harvest management) The Committee voted 9 – 0 TO RECOMMEND this article. (Blurb: Paul)

w. Art. 26 (purchase of new town forest land) The Committee voted 9 – 0 NOT TO RECOMMEND this article as the land to be purchased was not specified. (Blurb: Kate)

x. Art. 30 (purchase of Banks property) At this time, the Committee took no position on the article because its wording on the cost of the property was unclear and perhaps misleading. (Blurb: Gregg)

y. Art 31 (cable TV channel 6 part-time technician) The Committee voted 4 – 3 – 2 NOT TO RECOMMEND. (Blurb: Ike)

5. **Adjournment:** the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 16th.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal M. Kurk, Secretary