

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING 1-5-17

1. **The Weare Finance Committee met at the Town Offices on Thursday 5 January at 7pm.** Members in attendance were Matt Whitlock, Lori Davis, Bill Anderson, Keith Erf, Stephen Wallace, Neil Kurk, Greg McDowell, Travis Corcoran, and Jeff Brown. Also present were Town Administrator Naomi Bolton, Finance Administrator Beth Rouse, Selectman Tom Clow, Police Chief Sean Kelly, Fire Chief Bob Vezina, and representative Weare Police officers.
2. Business. Purpose of the meeting was to review and take initial action on the 2017 draft town warrant articles.
 - a. Administrative. Member McDowell motioned to not allow member Brown to vote on proposed town articles due to absenteeism and tardiness at committee meetings; motion was seconded by member Davis for purposes of allowing a vote. (FAILED 1-8).
 - b. Warrant Articles:
 1. Town Operating Budget. Proposed 2017 budget is \$5,779,628 vs default of \$5,785,882; approved 2016 operating budget was \$5,688,296. The proposed is approximately \$6K less than the default. The proposed is approximately \$91K (1.6%) higher than the 2016 operating budget. (RECOMMENDED 9-0)
 2. Police Contract. Representatives of the Weare Police Department addressed changes to the proposed warrant article. The original proposal called for a 3 year contract with a half percent COLA and 3.5% step increase per year. The amended proposal calls for a 3% pay raise in each of the first two years and a 3.5% step increase for year 3. Employee health insurance premium contributions increase from 7 to 10% consistent with all other employees. (RECOMMENDED 8-1)
 3. Raise Non Union Personnel. Article would raise \$34.6K for raises for non union personnel. (RECOMMENDED 8-0-1)
 4. Capital Reserve Fund ó Government Building and Maintenance. Article would raise \$75K to add to this fund. Fund currently has \$74.9K in it. Discussion centered on funds needed to repair the old town hall and the town gazebo while retaining a small balance for emergencies. ((RECOMMENDED 8-1)
 5. Police Cruisers. Original proposal to lease 3 cruisers with a \$57K cost in 2017 has been modified. Current warrant article proposes a purchase of 3 cruisers using \$107K from the 2016 unreserved fund balance. Selectman Clow advised there would still remain approximately \$200K of unreserved fund balance to potentially be returned to the taxpayers after the purchase. (RECOMMENDED 9-0)
 6. SCBA Air Packs. Chief Vezina reiterated purchasing 26 refurbished packs and new bottles provides the most longevity for the least amount. (PASSED 9-0)

7. 10 Wheeler. Article would allow purchase of a new 10 wheel plow truck to replace a 1982 6 wheel plow truck. (RECOMMENDED 6-3)
8. Backhoe. Article would allow purchase of a new backhoe to replace an existing one which has limited use due to condition. (NOT RECOMMENDED 2-7)
9. Road Reconstruction. Recurring warrant article for town road maintenance with funding shared by State and Town. Total warrant is for 480K with \$274K expected from the State to offset town cost. (RECOMMENDED 9-0)
10. Bridge Improvement. Article would raise \$105K to be placed in a new Capital Reserve Fund for future bridge repairs. The town currently has 3 projects that need addressing 6 River Rd (Bridge), Lull Rd (large culvert), and Old Francestown Rd (large culvert). Funding now would avoid large 1 year cost in the future while ensuring the town has funds available when the State offers shared funding for each project. (RECOMMENDED 9-0)
11. Boat Ramp Repairs. \$36K to add to a Chase Park Capital Reserve Fund; anticipated to be used to engineer and obtain permits for repairs to the boat ramp. (NOT RECOMMENDED 1-8)
12. Cemetery Improvements. No tax impact; withdrawing \$20K from trust fund for improvements. (RECOMMENDED 9-0)
13. Hazardous Waste Collection. \$7K for 1 day annual collection of HHW; since this is a recurring warrant article that has passed in recent years the town has incorporated this into the operating budget. If the operating budget passes then this article will be void. (RECOMMENDED 9-0)
14. Fireworks. \$6K for fireworks at 2017 Weare Patriotic Celebration. (NOT RECOMMENDED 3-5-1)
15. Conservation Commission Forest Management. No tax impact; \$25K from town forest account for town forest management plans. (RECOMMENDED 9-0)
16. Conservation Commission New Town Forest Land. No tax impact. \$125K from town forest account for potential purchase of new town forest land. (RECOMMENDED 7-1-1)

17.

3. Schedule.

- a. Town Warrant. First Session of the Annual Meeting 4 Feb 9AM at Weare Middle School; second session of the annual meeting Tues 14 March 7AM to 7PM at Weare Middle School.
- b. School Boards. Weare School Board public hearing Tues 10 Jan at 7pm; John Stark public hearing Thurs 12 Jan at 630pm.

- c. Finance Committee. Next meeting Thursday 19 Jan at 7pm at the town offices to review school budgets and approve comments for town warrant articles.
- 4. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 955pm.

Bill Anderson, Secretary
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