



NORTHFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of February 15, 2024

Present: Morris Boudreau, Amy O'Hara, Carl Bartlett, Ken Tripple, Scott Haskins, Karen Sheldon, Sel. Mark Hubbell

Staff Present: Town Administrator Stephanie Giovannucci

Chairman O'Hara called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Kevin Waldron asked if the budget is up or down. Mrs. O'Hara stated it's up by 1.9%.

Mr. Waldron asked what the funding is for Youth Assistance. Mr. Hubbell stated that they are being level funded at \$45,552. Mr. Waldron followed up stating that the County provides this service for free, what happened to looking into that. Mrs. O'Hara stated that the County offers some similar programs, but they are not free. Mr. Bartlette added that the state has changed the programs and requirements and the court has changed the process as well. Mr. Hubbell added that the county programs are out of Concord and the courts are sending the kids through diversion first before going to court.

Gretchen Wilder inquired about full time staffing. Mrs. Giovannucci stated that we have hired a Finance Director who is FT, and will be hiring an Administrative Asst in July. The admin at Public Works has also been moved to FT.

Mrs. O'Hara stated that the all the department heads did a great job at making cuts and spacing out their hiring. Mrs. Wilder agreed.

Bartlett/Boudreau moved to recommend Warrant Article 2. Motion Passed unanimously

Sheldon/Bartlett moved to recommend Warrant Article 3. Motion Passed unanimously

Proposed roads were reviewed, being phase 2 of Sarah Ln, Silver Ln, Megan Dr. Forrest Rd, Sargent St, Dearborn Rd; WB Hill, Greenwood Dr, Hidden Ln; Blueberry Ln and Shaw Rd.

Haskins/Bartlett moved to recommend Warrant Article 4. Motion Passed unanimously

O'Hara/Sheldon moved to recommend Warrant Article 5. Motion Passed unanimously

Boudreau/O'Hara moved to recommend Warrant Article 6. Motion Passed unanimously

Tripple/Boudreau moved to recommend Warrant Article 7. Motion Passed unanimously
Board reviewed the balance in the fund

Hubbell/Bartlett moved to recommend Warrant Article 8. Motion Passed unanimously
Mrs. Wilder will send Mrs. Giovannucci the vendor info that the State utilizes.

Bartlett/Tripple moved to recommend Warrant Article 9. Motion Passed Unanimously

Sheldon/Bartlett moved to recommend Warrant Article 10. Motion Passed Unanimously

O'Hara/Bartlett moved to recommend Warrant Article 11. Motion Passed Unanimously

Kevin Waldron questioned that there was a warrant article last year to dump this. Mrs. Giovannucci stated yes, we wanted to change it to a building fund, but it failed. Board reviewed the balance in the fund.

O'Hara/Trippl moved to recommend Warrant Article 12. Motion Passed Unanimously

Mrs. Wilder asked about merging funds. Mrs. Giovannucci stated that some funds cannot be per RSA, and others are kept separate because voters want to see specifically what the money is being spend on. We also tried with the building last year and it failed. Mr. Waldron asked why we are doing a feasibility study. Mrs. Giovannucci stated that the CIP Committee is reviewing all of the buildings and is finding that buildings like the Police Station need substantial work.

Boudreau/Trippl moved to recommend Warrant Article 13. Motion Passed unanimously

Mr. Hubbell feels that we have people in town that could do this. Mrs. O'Hara stated that it would be better to come from someone not vested in the town and to look at things independently oppose to what it's going to cost.

O'Hara/Trippl moved to recommend Warrant Article 14. Motion Fails 3-4

Discussion on how the structure was being constructed. Adam Dow explained the structure and the use. Mark Hubbell feels we need to get the feasibility study done first and then construct this if it's recommended. Board discussed what the containers are replacing. Mr. Haskins asked Mr. Boudreau who used to work down there about the conditions of the units, Mr. Boudreau stated he wouldn't go in them, as they are very unstable and falling apart, he said Doug went in instead.

Hubbell/Trippl moved to recommend Warrant Article 15. Motion Passed unanimously

Mr. Hubbell stated that this structure is definitely needed.

Discussion ensued regarding the construction of the structure, that it will hold 8 sanders. Mr. Dow confirmed that the current unit is a hazard and not keeping our sanders in good condition.

Bartlett/Hubbell moved to recommend Warrant Article 16. Motion Passed unanimously

There being no other business, meeting was adjourned at 6:22pm