

**JOINT WARREN BOARD OF SELECTMEN &  
WARREN VILLAGE SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET HEARING  
Tuesday, February 4, 2020**

Chairman C. Sackett called the meeting to order at 6:25 PM. All Select Board Members, Charles Sackett, Lesa Romano, and Charles Chandler were present.

Mr. Chandler stated that warrant article #1 through warrant article #12 are operating budget articles and have been discussed throughout the budget process.

Mr. Chandler started the meeting by reviewing the general operating budget. He discussed that Executive line and highlighted the increase for Town Administrator Salary. Mr. Chandler stated that Mr. Albro has excelled in his position and is deserving of an increase that will bring Mr. Albro to a comparable salary for administrators in towns similar to Warren. Mr. Chandler stated that Mr. Albro has developed such a rapport with representatives of the state and other organizations that it has made a huge impact on how well this town does business with those different entities. C. Chandler continued to say he has looked into the pay rate of other town administrators in the surrounding towns. Others are making between \$46,000 and \$53,000. The proposed budget includes \$45,000 for Mr. Albro.

Mr. Chandler also stated that another area of significant change was made to the Nonprofit/Charities. The Town has supported a number of these charities over the years. While all of these charities do good work and support the needs of the community, the Select Board has taken a closer look at the requests and has made adjustments based on the perceived impact to Warren residents. The Board highlighted that we are very fortunate to have certain service organizations in our Town, such as, the Wentworth/Warren Ambulance Service and the Ammonoosuc Community Health Services.

Don Bagley Sr. asked how much has the Town spent on legal fees? C. Chandler indicated that the entirety of legal budget was spent in 2019. The Selectboard has indicated that there have been some internal changes within our current municipal representation and that the Board is currently deciding on how to move forward. The Town Administrator will be setting up interviews with potential applicants.

Sheila Foote shared that she spoke with the Town Administrator regarding the need for another QuickBooks license. The Town Administrator indicated that he thought there was enough in the budget to cover the additional licensure, if needed.

Mr. Chandler stated he would read each warrant article and explain the intent, if there are any questions or if discussion is necessary.

Article 13 – Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand six hundred thirty four dollars (\$7,634) to be added to the Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2019 with no funds to be raised from taxation. This amount represents a portion of the surplus of the Fire Department 2019 budget. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Yes 3, No 0)

Discussion: None

Article 14 – Emergency Management Expendable Trust Fund - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand seven hundred and nineteen dollars (\$1,719) to be added to the Emergency Management Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. The amount represents the surplus in the Emergency Management 2019 budget. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Yes 3, No 0).

Discussion: None

Article 15 - Bingo – Shall the Town adopt the provisions of RSA 287-E relative to the conduct of games of bingo and the sale of Lucky 7 tickets?

Discussion: Don Bagley Sr. asked about the longevity of this warrant article and if the town needed to vote on it every year. The Town Administrator indicated he would look into it in advance of Town Meeting.

Article 16 – Library Paving - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand (\$5,000) for the purpose of repaving the library parking lot and walkway. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Yes 3, No 0).

Discussion: Someone asked where the Library parking lot was? Pat Wilson explained it is not really a parking lot but there are a few parking spaces in front of the library building.

Article 17 - One Ton Truck - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a 5 year lease agreement in the amount of seventy thousand (\$70,000) for the purpose of leasing a truck to replace the Highway Department's Ford F-550 and to raise and appropriate the sum of fourteen thousand (\$14,000) for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (A majority vote required). The Selectmen recommend this article. (Yes 3 No 0).

Discussion: None

Article 18 - Body Worn Camera - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand seven hundred dollars (\$1,700) for the purpose of purchasing a body worn police video camera system. This amount to come from the

unreserved fund balance.

Discussion: Selectwoman Lesa Romano explained that she initially abstained from voting to support this warrant article but has done further research and supports the article. The Selectmen recommend this article, 3-0.

Article 19 – Dam Maintenance Fund - To see if the Town will vote to establish a Dam Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for maintenance of Week's Crossing Dam including mandatory state inspections and to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand (\$1,000) from the unreserved fund balance to be placed in this fund. No amount to be raised from taxation. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Yes 3, No 0).

Discussion: Senator Bob Guida asked what level of dam was being constructed. He suggested that if the amount of funds allocated in the future should take into consideration the hazard level. Sheila Foote noted that this article should be an expendable trust fund, rather than a capital reserve fund, so that a special meeting and vote of the Town would not be required to expend the funds.

Article 20 – Electrical Work at Transfer Station - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the purpose of repairing the electrical meter at the Transfer Station Facility. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Yes 3, No 0).

Discussion: Senator Bob Guida questioned whether the work being completed was a repair or replacement. It was agreed that the article should reflect the replacement of the electrical meter and not repair.

Article 21– Container Purchase - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand three hundred and sixty-five dollars (\$3,365) dollars for the purpose of purchasing a shipping container for the storage of recyclables. The town has received a grant for one thousand eight hundred (\$1,800) half of the purchase price. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Yes 3, No 0).

Discussion: None

Article 22 – Tax Map Update - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand two hundred and fifty dollars (\$1,250) from the unreserved fund balance for the purpose of paying for the 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 tax map updates. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Yes 3, No 0).

Discussion: The Town Administrator explained that in 2017, 2018, 2019 there was no payment made to CAI Technologies, the company that handles the Town's tax maps. As a result, the Town owes \$500/year to be compliant with the contract and receive the

revised maps.

Article 23 - Electronic Radar Purchase - To see if the Town will vote to establish a raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 for the purpose of purchasing a mobile motor vehicle radar sign to be used throughout the town. This amount to come from the unassigned fund balance representing the amount that was raised at the 2019 Town Meeting. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Yes 3, No 0).

Discussion: Senator Bob Guida stated he believed the radar signs work.

Article 24 – Cemetery Maintenance – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for the purpose of cemetery maintenance with said funds to come from the Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund. No funds to come from taxation. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Yes 3, No 0).

Discussion: D. Bagley Sr. said this will cover the cleaning of stones in the remaining cemeteries.

Article 25 – Community Map - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the purpose of creating a community map for residents, tourists, and guests with said funds to come from the Community Development Expendable Trust Fund. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Yes 3, No 0).

Discussion: C. Sackett indicated there were a group of volunteers that is behind the project and working to make a map to highlight recreation opportunities and local businesses.

Article 26 - Fire Truck Purchase – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred and thirteen thousand dollars (\$213,000) for the purpose of a new cab and chassis fire truck to replace E-1, 1985 GMC and to rebuild the body of said truck and to authorize the withdrawal of one hundred seventy eight thousand five hundred dollars (\$178,500) from the Fire truck Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose and the balance to come from the Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund. This is a non-lapsing article. No amount is to be raised by new taxation. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Yes 3, No 0).

Discussion: Chief Heath said by using this method, the Fire Department saves \$40,000 as compared to a complete replacement.

Article 27 – Complete Scott Pack Replacement - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred ten thousand and forty (\$110,040) for the purpose of purchasing complete replacement of 14 Scott Air-Pak Uni and Bottles. The Town is applying for a grant for one hundred four thousand five hundred thirty eight dollars (\$104,538). Five thousand five hundred and two dollars (\$5,502) to be raised of



figures mention by taxation. This article is contingent upon receipt of the above grant. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Yes 3, No 0).

Discussion: Chief Heath explained the warrant article and stated that if the Town received the grant for the Scott Air Paks, that the cost to the Town would only be \$5,502. Senator Bob Guida asked why the Fire Department was asking for money to be raised by taxation in addition putting the remaining 2019 budget into the FD expendable trust fund. It was explained that the money was needed in the ETF in case of additional repairs during the truck replacement.

Article 28 – Replacement of Scott Air-Pak Bottles - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$22,750) for 26 new bottles for Scott Air-Paks at \$875 each. The ones we have will be out dated at the end of this year. This is a non-lapsing article and will not expire until 12/31/2022. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (d) and RSA 32:7 V. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Yes 3, No 0).

Discussion: There was a discrepancy in the amount to be raised by this article. Fire Chief Arthur Heath, Deputy Don Bagley Sr. and Sheila Foote determined the correct amount was to be \$24,750. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Yes 3, No 0)

Article 29 – Adopt the Provisions of RSA 72:81 - To see if the Town will adopt the provisions of RSA 72:81, Commercial and Industrial Construction Exemption, to allow a four – year property tax exemption for new construction or industrial construction, and renovation of vacant or blighted commercial or industrial structures. The exemption shall apply only to municipal and local school property taxes assessed by the municipality and shall exclude state education property taxes and county taxes. The exemption shall be as follows: 50% for the first year, 40% for the second year, 30% for the third year, and 20% for the fourth year. Subsequent years will be assessed at the full rate. The exemption will go into effect April 1 of the first year it is adopted by the legislative body, and the percentage rate and duration of the exemption shall be granted to all properties for which a proper application is filed. A vote adopting RSA 72:81 shall remain in effect for a maximum of four tax years. Any application, for which an exemption has been approved prior to the expiration of the four year tax period, shall continue to apply at the rate and for the duration in effect at the time it was granted. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Yes 3, No 0).

Discussion: Senator Bob Guida recommended looking into the Economic Revitalization Business Program.

Article 30 – Conduct Any Other Business – To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Discussion: None

C. Chandler asked if there were any other questions or comments. There being none

he motioned for approval of the budget as amended and adjournment of the budget hearing for the Town at 7:35 PM. The motion was seconded by C. Sackett. Voting in favor of the motion were Sackett-yes; Romano-yes and Chandler-yes. The motion passed 3-0-0.

Submitted by  
Catherine Cinnamond