

Board of Selectmen
October 08, 2012

PRESENT: Richard Griffin, Chairman
Richard Nichols, Vice Chairman
Michael Pierce, Selectmen
Philip Bean, Selectmen
Ben Moore, Selectmen
Frederick Welch, Town Manager

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

DPW Director was not present so a motion was made to delay meeting while Mr. Welch made a phone call to the Director.

Mr. Bean MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting momentarily. Mr. Nichols SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

I. 2013 DPW Budget

The following members of the Board asked questions and made comments which were addressed by Mr. Noyes.

Mr. Moore asked questions and made comments on the following: items being removed from the budget to warrant articles, money redirected in the budget and the Grist Mill Dam money in budget.

Mr. Nichols asked questions and made comments on the following: questioned why the 2 items related to I & I study and facilities plan were shifted out of the budget and are now warrant articles. , and asked if the dam study will eat up the majority of the \$40,000, scope of the dam study and trash/recycling pickup needs to be reviewed by management. Mr. Noyes explained that his initial intent was to cut down on the number of warrant articles for those two important projects, and that is why he placed them in the budget.

Mr. Pierce asked questions and made comments on the following: the breakdown of the \$40,000 for the Grist Mill dam study, the Ice Pond Conservation study is being done by the Conservation Commission, where is that money coming from; it is not from the DPW budget; and dredging of the Ice Pond and Grist Mill dams will cost millions of dollars.

Mr. Bean thanked Mr. Noyes for coming in on the holiday and for all his hard work.

Mr. Moore asked if we were operating under a LOD for the dam and the Town is not.

Mr. Nichols went through the history of bringing trash/recycling in-house. Mr. Nichols explained that trash and recycling pick up operation needs a thorough evaluation by management based on a couple of assumptions and adjustments that he {Mr. Nichols} made

on the Finance Director's analysis that it is costing \$20,000 more a year than the 2010 benchmark bids. Mr. Pierce also commented on the trash/recycling and trash truck use. Mr. Pierce has received calls asking why the side arm trucks are not being used in certain areas. Mr. Noyes explained to the Board why the side arm trucks are not being used in certain areas and it is a combination of factors such as the size of the roads at the Beach, and the mechanical maintenance issues with the trucks. Mr. Noyes explained to the Board that the side arm trucks are used as much as they can, and shared some information about the routes. Mr. Noyes also discussed how a consultant was hired to review the routes to streamline them and come up with a plan which they did test out. There was an additional discussion on number of trash pickups in certain areas of Town and the costs involved, and the need to evaluate whether the numerous pick up should continue. These issues are being discussed by DPW and options are being developed. Chairman Griffin brought up the fact that trash is picked up in his area 3 times a week and it is not necessary especially in the winter. Mr. Noyes commented on current contracts that are in place and where trash/recycling is being brought.

Mr. Bean commented that the Director of DPW should at his discretion, be able to make changes to the routes including frequency of pickups and does not need the approval of the Board.

II. 2013 DPW CIP

Discussion began with Mr. Nichols stating he is fine with the first two pieces of equipment but would suggest holding off on the packer until they figure out what is going on with trash/recycling. Mr. Noyes would ask that the packer not be removed from the warrant article at this time. The Board agreed that this would be a work in progress between now and the end of January. Mr. Nichols discussed the routes again and the need for them to see a spreadsheet outlining all the information in regards to trash/recycling pickup and identifies the truck that is used on each route. Mr. Noyes needs more guidance from the Board on what exactly it is that they want from him. Chairman Griffin reiterated that he is talking about frequency of pickup in the winter. Mr. Noyes shared some information that he has gathered when talking to businesses about lessening the amount of pickups.

Mr. Moore commented that Mr. Noyes is expected to get the bid documents out on Church Street Pump Station so he would suggest allowing this packer to go through and make it a goal of the Board in 2013 to study the whole trash/recycling program.

There was an additional discussion on removing the packer or not and Mr. Noyes expressed serious concern with removal of the packer. The Board agreed to separate the packer into its own warrant article and leave the two other pieces of equipment in the other article.

Mr. Pierce made the following comments on the CIP: if approved, the \$400,000 building vehicle equipment wash bay will really cost the taxpayer. Mr. Noyes addressed Mr. Pierce comment, that this building is more than just to store equipment, there is a real need for this facility, it will be multi-purpose, office space, storage, training room, wash bay. Mr. Moore also commented on the design for the wash bay/storage area/office space and any savings that might be seen if we go from 7 bays to 6 bays. Mr. Nichols also commented on the design of the bays, history of when and how much it was proposed for in the past, current bay space they have at DPW, in favor of wash bay and not in favor of spending significant

amount of money to store equipment. Mr. Noyes went through details for this new space and what is being done in current space. Mr. Bean is definitely in favor and enthusiastic about moving forward on this CIP project.

Mr. Pierce asked about the additional work for Exeter Road and if Mr. Noyes has a plan. Mr. Noyes does have a plan and it involves 3 phases which he went through in detail for the Board. Mr. Nichols added up the numbers on Exeter Road for the Board which included what has already been spent and expected to be spent.

Mr. Moore commented on the Waste Water collection study and he would support this. Mr. Nichols commented as follows: the breakdown of the money to be spent on this, doing some work in-house with the knowledge that is there and study being complete prior to discussions for 2014. Mr. Noyes commented that his department works hand in hand with all the projects that they have going on.

Mr. Bean commented on the great work being done by Mr. Noyes, taking money from the Undesignated Fund Balance, Town's that are going bankrupt in California, overspending on infrastructure; total of CIP including all departments is too aggressive in his opinion and need to take special care on this plan.

Mr. Pierce commented on the Storm Water system improvements on Exeter Road.

Chairman Griffin brought up the article for Winnacunnet Road/Lafayette Road. Mr. Pierce commented as follows: authorized funding from the State possibility and EOPCC number discussed by Mr. Rose. Mr. Noyes commented on projects being done in phases and how a lot of the times you do not know what you are getting into. There was a detailed discussion on the memo from Mr. Rose in regards to cost of the project. Mr. Moore commented on: comments made by Mr. Nichols last week in regards to cost of not doing the sewer work at this time and waiting and taking a real gamble with this intersection. Mr. Noyes explained in detail the plans in phases for this project. Mr. Welch interjected information on the life span of paving. Mr. Nichols commented as follows: not sure of the safety concerns, not going to be able to do everything and possibility of just doing a T-intersection and nothing else. Mr. Bean supports solving the traffic issue. Mr. Pierce commented on the spur road and confusion here. He would suggest making spur road one way and how this could solve all the problems.

Mr. Pierce is in complete support of the proposed improvements to 5 corners, discussed the number of accidents that have happened there and the possibility of traffic circle. Mr. Moore is in complete support of this project and discussed the only reason it was moved from 2012.

Mr. Pierce commented on the plans for the WWTP including some regulations put on the Town by the State. Mr. Noyes discussed the parameters put on the Town by the State. Mr. Nichols commented on how this amount has bounced around a lot and Mr. Noyes explained why.

Closing comments made by the Board in regards to the DPW CIP.

Mr. Pierce thinks we have to wait and see on the dam.

Mr. Nichols commented on the following: amounts of the Grist Mill Dam, specific numbers in regards to forecasting which includes the CIP, discussed effect on municipal tax rate, use

of undesignated fund balance and projected amount of taxes on an average single family home.

III. 2013 Warrant Articles

The following items were discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

Sewer Connection Fees

Mr. Pierce asked about sewer connection fees and what the fees were in the past and the change they want to make to the fees now, the change is \$300.00 from \$100.00. He also suggested some clarification on the language to make it clearer. Mr. Moore clarified that they will actually be changing the language of the current ordinance. Mr. Welch addressed each of Mr. Moore and Mr. Pierce's questions/concerns and there was a consensus amongst the Board to move forward with this article, with the article to be clarified.

CIP – Kid's Kingdom

Mr. Nichols asked about the \$100,000 that was previously in the CIP for Kids Kingdom and wonders why it has been removed. Mr. Welch explained that it is being deferred. Mr. Nichols stated that he has spoken with Dyana regarding the repairs needed, he suggests someone should look at repairing the boards and not replacement. Chairman Griffin has also spoken with Dyana on this, and Dyana does not agree with that assessment.

Recreation Office Space Warrant Article

This is for \$65,000 to create office space for the Recreations Dept. in the main Recreation building at Tuck Field; the funding would come from the Parking Lot Revenue. Mr. Welch explained that the Recreation Dept. has out grown the office space they have, and this article could allow for the creation of about 600 square feet of office space; the vacated office space would be utilized by other departments in the Town Offices. A paper proposal will be brought to the Board by December.

The following items were discussed after the 2013 DPW budget and CIP

The Old Court House

Mr. Moore commented as follows: definitely not in favor of using undesignated fund balance for this, is ok with this article going to Town Meeting, and the addition for the Library, the community service building that has been discussed and could be additional space for Town.

Mr. Nichols commented as follows: fine with taking UFB out of article, hopes to get a more firm amount prior to December and demo amount.

Mr. Bean would love to see it go but for less money than \$75,000.

Mr. Pierce agrees with not using the undesignated fund and time to bring this to an end.

DPW equipment

Mr. Moore mentioned that this was discussed previously and Board agreed to split this article. He would like the undesignated fund balance use removed from this article also. Mr. Nichols questioned if Mr. Moore plans to remove UFB from all articles. Mr. Moore is not sure he will suggest removing it from all the articles.

Mr. Bean asked Mr. Welch to provide a quick synopsis on the undesignated fund balance for the benefit of the public. Mr. Bean is also in favor of removing the use of the undesignated fund balance from the articles as suggested by Mr. Moore.

DPW Road Improvements

Mr. Moore commented this was also discussed earlier and he would once again suggest removing the use of undesignated fund balance from the article.

Fire Department Capital Reserve

Mr. Moore is in favor of this savings being put in place for future fire equipment.

Cemetery Burial Fund and Police Forfeiture Fund

The Board was fine with both of these.

TV Origination Fund

Mr. Pierce asked about the Cable TV contract.

Lafayette/Winnacunnet Road Intersection

Mr. Moore feels the Board needs to decide what they would like to put forward on this in regards to the intersection.

Mr. Nichols does not think the Board can put through this whole project. He went through the process he will go through in regards to all the warrant articles and the suggestions he will be bringing back to the Board. He would be in favor of spending short money on this by making a T-intersection and removing the spur road. Mr. Welch made comments in regards to Mr. Nichols suggestion. Mr. Nichols summarized Mr. Welch suggestion of spending the \$112,000 and replacing 2 sewer pipes. Mr. Moore pointed out that they had suggested letting this intersection improvements go to the Public for approval. Mr. Bean suggested striking the second paragraph and go forward with only the intersection. There was an additional discussion on whether or not this article should be moved forward. Mr. Moore would suggest doing the intersection the way that the engineers have suggested. Mr. Pierce questioned what the public will be asked to approve. Mr. Nichols does think the article should be put out for vote. There was a consensus amongst the Board to put this article forward to the voters.

Construct Wash Bay and Equipment Storage Area

Mr. Moore would suggest pushing this item off until they hear back from Mr. Noyes. Mr. Welch provided some further information on the need for equipment storage space. Mr. Pierce asked for a price for a wash bay only. Mr. Nichols thinks that the Board will have some different opinions once they get to the bottom line number things will have to change.

New Ball Fields

Mr. Moore agrees that they need more field space but expressed concerns with this being school property, possibility of other field use, need to build a road to access field, discussed the use of all the fields in Town and would like to see this become a community service project. We have the need but the question is can we afford it.

Mr. Bean would love to see the school systems open their doors to these uses.

Mr. Nichols commented on a discussion he had with Dyana and he was under the impression that she was able to work with the school on using their facilities. There was a discussion on volunteers getting this done and how it would work.

The Board agreed to gather more information on this article along with the article in regards to Recreation Office space at Tuck.

Mr. Moore confirmed that they will go through some of the non-monetary articles before December. The Board agreed to discuss the remainder articles at a later date.

Closing Comments on Warrant Articles

Mr. Nichols reminded everyone that the tax impact for 2013 is still up at somewhere around 6%.

Mr. Moore commented on the impact on the tax rate.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. 2012 November 6th Election Warrant
2. Previously approved Property Tax Payment Agreement: Parcel # 296-139-1
3. Previously approved Deed Waiver: Parcel # 296-139-1
4. Thompson Elementary School, North Andover, MA – Permission to Park at Plaiice Cove – 10/22/12 9:30AM-2:00PM

Mr. Pierce MOTIONED to MOVE the Consent Agenda. Mr. Moore SECONDED.

Discussion on motion

Mr. Pierce questioned item #4 and if this has been allowed in the past. Mr. Welch answered it has not been done but explained what the school would like to do.

Mr. Nichols asked when did the Board had approved items #2 and #3. Mr. Welch stated that the Board approved them when the Tax collector was before the Board in September.

VOTE: 5-0-0

V. Closing Comments

Mr. Welch informed the Board that they had previously approved a Pig Roast at Wally's but the date has changed to the 13th so the Board needs to approve this again.

Mr. Pierce MOTIONED to approve the permit for the Pig Roast at Wally's on October 13th. Mr. Bean SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to adjourn the public meeting. Mr. Pierce SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Chairman