

THE MINUTES OF THE WARRANT COMMITTEE MEETING October 24, 2001

Chairman Brusch called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Members absent were: W. Flewelling, D. Hobbs and W. Hofmann.

1. Received a letter from the Board of Selectmen requesting a review and recommendation on a \$5,000.00 request for "New Programs" in the Recreation Department. This item was cut from the FY02 budget. A copy is on file with this Clerk. Consensus of the Warrant Committee members is that this Request does not meet the criteria of a Reserve Fund Transfer. Member Heigham made a motion not to approve this Request, since it is not an emergency or unforeseen. Member White second said motion and it was voted. This item could be considered at the next town meeting.

2. Chairman Brusch distributed a form for the Sub Committee Assignments for FY02. Chairman Brusch asked members to complete and return the forms as soon as possible.

3. Member Heigham made a motion. Member White second said motion and it was voted to approve the minutes of September 12, 2001.

4. Member White made a motion. Member Heigham second said motion and it was voted to approve the minutes of September 27, 2001 as amended.

5. Received notification from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue that the Town's "free cash" as of July 1, 2001 was \$723,387.00. A copy is on file with this Clerk.

6. Articles of Special Town Meeting of 11/5/01:

Article #9- This article seeks to ratify a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between O'Neil Properties, AP Cambridge Partners and the Town of Belmont concerning the development of Belmont Uplands. Member Monahan noted his involvement in this parcel of land for the past twenty years. The MOA is for a five story office building in which the zoning has to be changed from the current general property residence. The Town under the MOA would receive approximately 8.6 acres in conservation land, a donation of \$375,000.00 to affordable housing, payment of \$113,000.00 for removal of inflow and drain improvements and \$500,000.00 to \$600,000.00 in annual property tax. Also in the property is sold to a nonprofit organization after the development then tax for the next forty years would have to be paid by the new owner. Member Heigham noted that the Planning Board will be acting on the zoning change tomorrow night. Selectmen Brownsberger noted that he was against this article and would like to see if this land could be retained as open space. Selectmen Mahoney was concerned that if the property was developed as housing units it could have a dramatic impact on the school budget. Member Widmer requested any financial information in this proposal. Action on this article was tabled until next week when the financial information would be available.

Article #3 - This article is to fund two collective bargaining contracts. One is for Joint Public Safety, and the second for the Police Patrolmen's Union. Town Administrator Mel Kleckner noted that these two contracts contain a 3% COLA for FY01 and FY02 and that the funding for these contracts is currently in the operating budget. Member suggested to Mel to have a full explanation and handout for Town Meeting Members. A vote on this article was tabled to next week.

Article #4 - This Article is to increase the school's operating budget by \$60,000.00 for E-rate reimbursement. Member Heigham moved to recommend favorable action. Member Freiner second said motion and it was voted unanimously.

Article #5 - This article is to fund exhaust systems at the three fire stations in the amount of \$60,000.00. Member Freiner made a motion to recommend favorable action. Member Oates second said motion and it was voted unanimously.

Article #6- This article transfers \$943,849.24 from the Kendall School Fire Insurance Fund to the Capital Endowment Fund. There was much discussion whether the funds should be transferred to the Capital Endowment Fund or the Stabilization Fund. After much discussion, Member Schafer made a motion to recommend favorable action and to transfer the fund to the Capital Endowment Fund. Member McCormick second said motion and it was voted 13 in favor with 1 abstention.

7. Chairman Brusch is seeking volunteers to form a sub committee to review future years budget projections, both for the operating and revenues. The Town Administrator noted that he will be providing preliminary revenue and operating budgets to the Board of Selectmen at their October 29, 2001 meeting.

8. Voted to adjourn at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Szabo

Recording Clerk