

**THE MINUTES  
OF THE  
WARRANT COMMITTEE MEETING  
October 9, 2002**

Chairman Widmer called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

Members absent: J. Heigham, and L. McCormick

Also present: Town Administrator Melvin Kleckner, Selectman Anne Marie Mahoney, Selectman Paul Solomon, Town Accountant Barbara Hagg and Town Treasurer Susan Kendall Freiner

*Handout(s) given tonight:* (1) Draft Article Summary of the Special Town Meeting, and (2) Draft Warrant for Special Town Meeting, (3) FY03 Budgeted Payrolls and (4) Warrant Committee Schedule

Chairman Widmer reviewed with the Committee the upcoming meeting dates for the fiscal year (Handout 4).

***Acceptance of Minutes***

The Committee discussed and made amendments to the minutes of the September 18, 2002 meeting.

Member Hobbs made a motion, Member Miller seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes as amended of September 18, 2002.

***Update on Special Town Meeting Agenda \_ October 28, 2002***

Mr. Kleckner reviewed the two handouts and went through each Article in the Warrant briefly. He noted Articles 2 Fire Station Design Funding and 3 Senior Center Design Funding are the “meat” of the Special Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen is meeting Tuesday night (October 15<sup>th</sup>) for a special session to discuss what will be included in the scope of the Senior Center Design Funding issue. Mr. Kleckner noted a lot of discussion is needed for Article 4 Trapelo Road Zoning. He mentioned Article 5 Special Legislation for Taxation of Alewife Property is carried forward from last Spring.

Article 8 seeks to transfer any remaining amount, leftover from Articles 2 and 3, to the Town's Stabilization Fund. The interest from monies in this Fund remains in the Stabilization Fund.

Article 9 Council on Aging Budget has been eliminated from the Warrant. This will be re-addressed at a later time due to time constraints in getting this prepared.

Selectman Brownsberger focused on three big issues: Senior Center Design Funding, Fire Station Design Funding, and Zoning for the Fire Stations (both Trapelo Road and Belmont Center). He said the Board of Selectmen is committed to having a fire station on Trapelo Road. Selectman Brownsberger noted there are concerns with putting a Walgreen's Pharmacy on the Volkswagen property. He remarked there is a possibility the property acquisition for the Kendall property may be done by eminent domain. If taken that way, however, there will not be any environmental indemnification. In negotiation with the Volkswagen dealership owners, the Town has already achieved environmental indemnification.

Selectman Brownsberger would like to see this going forward, but he is concerned there are too many loose ends and opposition.

With fifteen members present, Chairman Widmer and the Warrant Committee took a roll call vote enter into Executive Session at 8:04 PM for the purpose of discussing Fire Station Design and Land Acquisition Issues as well as the Health Insurance Cost Cutting Initiatives update.

The Warrant Committee returned to regular session at 9:23 PM.

### ***Other Issues***

#### ***Pension Program***

Chairman Widmer informed the Committee regarding the Town's required annual pension contribution to the Retirement Program. There is a major issue of whether the Town will be stepping up the contributions to the Retirement Program which will postpone when the Pension Program would be fully funded (initially 2018, but postponement to probably 2028).

On Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, a meeting will be held regarding this issue. Chairman Widmer asked if a member of the Warrant Committee could attend in his place. Member Brusch volunteered to attend.

#### ***Payroll Issue***

Town Accountant Hagg informed the Committee regarding a 53<sup>rd</sup> week of payroll for FY03 (Handout 3). Departments are being asked to absorb this cost if possible. The cost to the Town is about \$250K, with teachers not being affected since their salary is based on 180 days.

Chairman Widmer raised the issue of annual salaries, and how that will be affected if an extra week will be paid due to this issue. Treasurer Freiner said the way the payroll system works for management is the hourly rate is entered into the system based on the annual salary (annual salary divided by 52 weeks divided by 40 hours per week). She would prefer to just enter in the annual salary, but the system does not allow for that.

Chairman Widmer noted the Warrant Committee will revisit this at a later time after the Board of Selectmen has also had some time to discuss this issue.

Selectman Mahoney remarked if this 53<sup>rd</sup> week was an accumulation of days similar to a leap year, then management has worked those extra days for the past five of six years and they should get paid.

Member Bruschi questioned how the Town handled this issue five or six years ago. Town Accountant Hagg and Treasurer Freiner will look into the precedence set in prior years.

Member Flewelling made a motion, and it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina E. Frizzell  
Recording Clerk