

THE MINUTES OF THE WARRANT COMMITTEE MEETING September 27, 2001

Chairman Brusch called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Members absent were: None. School Committee Member Scott Stratford replaced Member Kathy Miller for this meeting.

1. Town Treasurer Ernie Fay and his assistant, Daniella Boccia, appeared before the committee requesting a Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$25,000. The request is for a new computer program for the town's property tax system. Mr. Fay outlined the ongoing problems and concerns with the present vendor. The cost for the new program is \$35,000 of which \$10,000 is in the Treasurer's budget. A copy of a letter from the Board of Selectmen noting that they are in favor of this request is on file with this clerk.

Member Hofmann made a motion. Member Freiner second said motion and it was voted to approve this request in the amount of \$25,000.

2. Assessing Administrator Bob Reardon, Town Treasurer Ernie Fay and Town Accountant Steve Szabo were present to discuss the setting of the FY02 tax rate by the Department of Revenue (DOR). Town Administrator Mel Kleckner noted that DOR would not approve the town's FY02 tax rate without raising the \$523,624 deficit in the Health Insurance Trust fund. Bob Reardon stated that the DOR is taking a hard stand this year on health insurance deficits. Steve Szabo noted that this deficit had been deducted from the calculated "free cash" for 7/1/01 as has been the situation in previous years. Bob Reardon stated that the town had two choices; raise the amount through this tax rate an additional 14 cents or use a portion of the Kendall Fire Insurance proceeds as an estimate revenue in FY02. The balance of the Kendall Fire Insurance proceeds of approximately \$4.2 million had to be recorded in the General Fund and flow into the free cash as of 7/1/02. Bob Reardon noted that the tax rate had been tentatively set using either one of the two scenarios.

3. Chairman Brusch announced that the annual meeting of the Associated Town Finance Committee organization would be held on Saturday, November 3, 2001 at Holy Cross College. If any member is interested in attending, please contact Steve.

4. Members of the Warrant Committee adjourned to a special meeting of the Board of Selectmen at the Town Hall Auditorium at 7:30PM. Members of the Board of Selectmen, Capital Budget Committee and the Permanent Building Committee were present to discuss major capital projects.

5. The major capital projects under consideration were:

1. Final payment to McLean
2. Town Hall Complex
3. Fire Station Building and
4. New Library
5. New Wellington School
6. Town Community Center

There was a general agreement that projects one and two would have to be addressed at the Special Town Meeting of 11/5/01. The Board of Selectmen voted to renovate the Town Hall Annex and School Administration Building and finish the third floor of the Town Hall. There was a general and lengthy discussion among all committee members on whether to prioritize the projects when they should be undertaken and what is the impact on the tax rate for these various projects. Town Treasurer distributed a printout listing all the cost of the projects, estimated revenue offsets and the tax rate impact for FY03 to FY26. A copy is on file with this clerk. The Permanent Building Committee has agreed to study alternatives and make a report.

6. Chairman Monahan announced that the Board of Selectmen will be meeting with the Fire Station Consolidation Committee on 10/18/01 to further discuss fire station issues.

7. Chairman Monahan announced that the next meeting of this group (BOS, CBC, WC & PMC) would be held on 10/22/01 at 7:00PM in the Town Hall Auditorium.

8. This meeting adjourned at 10:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Szabo

Recording Clerk