

THE MINUTES OF THE WARRANT COMMITTEE MEETING October 31, 2001

Chairman Brusch called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

Member absent was: W. Hofmann.

1. Member Monahan initiated a discussion as to the need of a Blue Ribbon Financial Task Force. He noted the difficulty of the town's finance picture and the town must look to other revenue sources primarily in the area of economic development. Member Monahan suggested a committee of six to work with the Board of Selectmen, Warrant and Capital Budget Committees. Selectmen Brownsberger supports Member Monahan's idea, but suggested two committees instead of just one. A second one to look at long term planning. Member Freiner suggested that the Committee look at consolidation of services, specifically public works.

2. Member White noted that a group has been formed to look at projected revenue and operating budgets for the next five years to see if and when an override may be required. The group met this morning, which consisted of Members Brusch, Morley, and Freiner. Staff members J. Munro and S. Szabo were also in attendance.

3. Special Town Meeting Recommendations:

Article #2- This is for professional services in connection with the four major Capital Projects at a cost of \$105,000.00. A letter from Mel Kleckner to the Board of Selectmen describing the services and their cost is on file with this Clerk. Member Hilgenberg is strongly against spending any funds for the current Council of Aging site on Oakley Road. Member Heigham made a motion to recommend favorable action, Member Flewelling second said motion and it was voted 14 yeas and 1 nay.

Article #3- Collective Bargaining for certain unions, the Patrolmen's Association, The Joint Public Safety Communication and the recently signed tentative agreement with NAGE. The first two contracts are for three years with a 3% COLA for each year. Mel noted that there would be a handout at the Special Town Meeting. Mel will provide the cost of the NAGE agreement at our next meeting.

Article #7- This article is for design services for the three buildings in the Town Hall Complex. Member Flewelling made a motion to recommend favorable action, seconded by Member Oates and it was voted unanimously.

Article #8- The final amount due under the Memo of Agreement with McLean at a cost of \$317,100.00. Member Flewelling made a motion to recommend favorable action, seconded by Member McCormick and it was voted unanimously.

Article #9- An article to ratify the Memo of Agreement (MOA) between O'Neil Properties and the Town. Members were concerned if the O'Neil Property is sold

to another party, is the MOA still in effect? Mel responded in the affirmative. Member Heigham made a motion to recommend favorable action. Member McCormick second the motion and it was voted with 12 yeas and 3 nays.

Article #10- A zoning article to change the zoning of O'Neil Properties from general residents to create a separate district Section 6B entitled "Belmont Uplands District". Member Heigham reported that the Planning Board voted 4 to 0 with 1 abstention to recommend favorable action. Member Flewelling made a motion to recommend favorable action. Member Oates second said motion and it was voted with 12 yeas and 3 nays.

Article #11- This is an article to petition the Massachusetts General Court the power for the Town to tax real estate property taxes on the O'Neil property if the property is sold to a non-profit organization. Chairman Bruschi noted that this article is contingent upon favorable action on both article #9 and #10. Member Flewelling made a motion to recommend favorable action and Member McCormick second said motion and it was voted with 14 yeas and 1 nay.

4. Chairman Bruschi announced that the next meeting of the Warrant Committee would be held on November 5, 2001 at 7PM in Room # 145 of the Belmont High School.
5. Voted to adjourn at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Szabo

Recording Clerk