

WARRANT COMMITTEE FY07 MEETING MINUTES
FINAL
JUNE 13, 2007, 7:00 P.M.
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM

Present: Chair Jones; Members Allison, Brusch, Callanan, Doblin, Heigham, Hobbs, Oates, Paolillo, Tillotson, White, and Widmer; Town Administrator Younger, Town Treasurer Carman, Assistant Town Accountant Martin, Assistant Town Administrator Conti; BOS Chair Firenze; School Committee Chair Bowe.

Absent: Members Christensen, Curtis, Hofmann; and Town Accountant Hagg

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Jones.

Chair Jones began the meeting by stating that after reviewing the minutes from May 30, 2007, he would like to address both the articles for Town Meeting as well as the use of reserve funds to cover shortfalls issue.

Minutes Approved for 5-30-07

After corrections were made, the minutes of May 30, 2007 were accepted, with one abstention.

Clarification of WC Position on Shortfalls If Health Savings Not Realized

Chair Jones summarized the issue: In reducing the budget by \$515K, we are assuming aggressive savings in health insurance. The possibility exists that these savings may not materialize. If that is the case, the WC has indicated that it is willing to use reserve funds to cover potential shortfalls.

Chair Jones turned to Member Widmer to present the motion. Member Widmer made the following motion:

"We anticipate significant savings can be achieved in health insurance. Should those health insurance savings be outweighed by either a larger-than-budgeted percentage increase on January 1, 2008 or because of enrollment changes of current employees, the Warrant Committee will favorably consider a request for a reserve fund transfer to cover the shortfall in health insurance."

The motion was seconded and a very short discussion ensued. BOS Chair Firenze asked that the word "can" in the first sentence be changed to "will".

The motion was seconded as amended.

Chair Jones stated that this issue will be revisited within six months to observe trends in enrollment as well as in savings. He stated that it has been his goal to go to Town Meeting with the WC, the SC, and the BOS united around one single budget.

The motion was put to a vote: all members voted in favor.

Chair Jones thanked all parties for their efforts in creating a unified position on the budget.

Special Town Meeting Articles

Special Article 2 concerns the cemetery lot sale sum of \$530K be used to reduce the debt for construction of the Highland Meadow Cemetery. Motion to approve was made, all voted in favor.

Special Article 3 concerns applying proceeds from the sale of the Central Fire Station (\$1,499,968.74) to fund the new Fire Stations. Motion to approve was made, all voted in favor.

The following Capital Budget Articles were motioned for approval and all voted in favor:

Articles 10, 4, 3, 11

Chair Jones reminded the WC to keep June 18 at 6:00 available to meet prior to Town Meeting. A discussion ensued about the various meetings scheduled to take place on the evening of June 18. At the conclusion of this discussion, Chair Jones decided to move the WC meeting to 7:00, allowing the Capital Budget subcommittee to meet at 6:00 and the BOS to meet at 6:30.

Member Heigham moved to adjourn at 7:26 pm.

Submitted by Lisa Gibalerio
Recording Secretary