

Minutes of the Budget Hearing/Selectmen's Meeting  
4 February 2014

Budget Hearing

Members present: JoAnn Brown, Chairman, R. Stephen Leighton Jim Andersen

In attendance: Mark Messenger, Greg Messenger, Matt Messenger, Lynn Sweet, Scott Young, Liz Evans, Davis Clarke, and Carolyn Clarke

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:00PM

JoAnn Brown, Chairman of the Selectmen introduced herself and the other Selectmen, Jim Andersen and R. Stephen Leighton.

Notice of this hearing was published in *Foster's Daily Democrat* on January 24, 2014. Notice was also posted at the Town Hall, Post Office, on the Town's website and in the Community Calendar.

The purpose of this public hearing is to review the proposed budget and certain warrant articles to be voted on at the March 15, 2014 Town Meeting. Town Meeting will commence at 8:30AM at the Strafford School.

JoAnn Brown began the proceedings by pointing out that Article 9 for General Operations is up only 1%. The net to be raised by taxation for the overall proposed budget is up 5%, largely due to the bridge construction project for the replacement of the First Crown Point Road bridge under Article 2. Those in attendance were invited to ask questions at any point during the meeting.

Warrant Article 1 for the election of officers to be held on March 12, 2012 at the Strafford Town Hall was read.

Voting on the remaining articles will be conducted at Town Meeting on March 16, 2013.

Warrant Article 2 which appropriates funds for the construction of a bridge on First Crown Point Road was read. No questions or discussion followed.

Warrant Article 3 pertaining to capital improvements on Town roads was read. No questions or discussion followed.

Warrant Article 4 was read for the appropriation of funds for the operation and maintenance of the Strafford Police Department. No questions or discussion followed.

Warrant Article 5 which appropriates funds for the operation and maintenance of the Strafford Fire Department and Rescue Squad was read. No questions or discussion followed.

Warrant Article 6 which asks the Town to vote to authorize the hiring of a full time Fire Chief, including salary and benefits was read. (Cost is anticipated to cover June through December.) No questions or discussion followed.

Warrant Article 7 was read. It requests the appropriation of funds to purchase a 1<sup>st</sup> Responder vehicle, and authorizes the withdrawal of those funds from the special revenue fund known as the Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Fund with no funding to come from general taxation. No questions or discussion followed.

Warrant Article 8 requesting an appropriation of monies to fund an increase in the Town Treasurer's salary was read. No questions or discussion followed.

Warrant Article 9 for the appropriation for general Town operations was read. No questions or discussion followed.

A petition article was submitted by Bob Perry which relates to the funding of political campaigns was read. As it was not received in time to be included in the Draft Warrant, it was made available for review. No questions or discussion followed.

With the complete Warrant having been read, Greg Messenger noted that his winter maintenance costs have been higher than normal this winter relative to past years. He will bring this up at Town Meeting when he has a better idea of total winter maintenance costs, and is likely to request an additional appropriation.

There being no further questions, JoAnn Brown thanked those in attendance for coming. The Budget Hearing portion of the meeting ended at 6:09.

Copies of informational forms (i.e. Warrant, Budget, and Estimated 2014 Tax Rate) are enclosed as an addendum to these minutes.

## Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting 4 February 2014

Members present: JoAnn Brown, Chairman, R. Stephen Leighton, Jim Andersen

The meeting was called to order at 6:16PM.

Payroll was reviewed and approved.

The Selectmen read and approved minutes from December 10, 2013.

The Selectmen felt it prudent that due to Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse's temporary unavailability to ask someone to help Scott until such time that he, himself, is able to appoint someone to assist him during this period of recovery. After some discussion, the Board decided to ask David Harntraft. They contacted him and he agreed to help in any way he could.

Due to a forecasted winter storm for February 5<sup>th</sup> the Town Hall, Hill Library, and the Recycling Center/Transfer Station will be closed. Notification will be made via the Town website, WOKQ, and WMUR.

The Selectmen reviewed the bridge agreement information from Dubois and King in preparation for meeting with Bob Durfee on February 18<sup>th</sup>. They discussed the easements with abutting land owners and will contact them to invite them to the February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The tax collector notified the Selectmen of action to be taken on a few situations of long overdue taxes.

The Board briefly discussed the proposed building at the New Hampshire Army National Guard Training Center and the possible impact on the services provided by the Town's Fire and Rescue Department.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board a motion was made, seconded, and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:01PM.