

Minutes of the Budget Hearing/Selectmen's Meeting
7 February 2012

Budget Hearing

Members present: Stephen Leighton, Chairman, Lynn Sweet and JoAnn Brown

In attendance: Lisa Donnelly, Liz Evans, Greg Messenger, Scott Whitehouse, Mike Richards,

Paul Stover, Paul Yergeau, Sr., Scott Young

Notice of the Public Hearing was published in Foster's Daily Democrat on January 21, 2012, and posted at the Post Office, Town Hall and in the Strafford Community Calendar.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02P.M. The purpose of the hearing is to review the proposed budget and certain warrant articles to be voted on at the March 17, 2010 Town Meeting. Town Meeting will commence at 8:30 A.M. at the Strafford School.

Warrant Article 1 is for the election of officers to be held on March 13, 2012 at the Strafford Town Hall.

Warrant article 2 was read. Put forth by the Planning Board, it proposes to clarify and expand the guidelines of the current zoning regulations in regards to signs. It will be put to a vote by ballot at Town Election on March 13, 2012.

Warrant Article 3 was read. Also put forth by the Planning Board, it addresses outdoor lighting and will be put to a vote by ballot at Town Election on March 13, 2012.

Warrant Article 4 was read. It proposes to place additional funds into the Non-Capital Reserve Fund begun for bridge projects. No discussion followed.

Warrant Article 5 pertaining to capital improvements on Town roads was read. No discussion followed.

Warrant Article 6 was read which proposes funding for the construction of a Town salt shed. A question was raised as to the proposed location. It will be at the site of the other Town shed on Rte 202A.

Warrant Article 7 which appropriates money for the operation and maintenance of the Fire and Rescue Department was read. No discussion followed.

Warrant Article 8 was read. It authorizes the withdrawal of funds from a revenue fund for the 1st year payment on the lease purchase agreement for the ambulance purchased this year. No discussion.

Warrant Article 9 dealing with capital improvements to the 3 fire stations was read. No discussion.

Warrant Article 10 which appropriates money for the operation and maintenance of the Police Department was read. Following a question about the release of funds from the Special Detail Account, it was stated that the Selectmen are the "agents to expend" from that fund.

Warrant Article 11 for the appropriation for general Town operations was read. The Selectmen stated that there is a slight increase over last year.

Warrant Article 12 dealing with the discontinuation a Class VI road was read. No discussion.

Warrant Article 13 involving clearing up the title on some land located on Evans Mountain Road was read, with no discussion following.

Warrant Article 14 was read. It addresses several capital reserve funds with little or no balance. No discussion followed.

Warrant Article 15 was read. It is a petition article. No discussion followed.

A petition article from the Library pertaining to the purchase of property adjoining the Library was read. It will become Warrant Article 16. No discussion followed.

Copies of informational forms (i.e. Warrant, Budget, Planning Board amendments, and Estimated 2012 Tax Rate) are enclosed as an addendum to these minutes.

There being no further questions, Mr. Leighton thanked those in attendance for coming. The Budget Hearing portion of the meeting ended at 6:14.

Selectmen's Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:21PM

Minutes from January 24, 2012 meeting were read and approved as written.

Items of correspondence were reviewed and signed as necessary and payment of bills was authorized.

The warrant article submitted this week by Ken Berry was briefly discussed. It will be included as Warrant Article 16 to be considered at the Annual Town Meeting. A vote was taken as to whether to support the article, and went as follows: Mr. Leighton, Nay; Ms. Sweet, Nay; Mrs. Brown abstained from the vote.

The Selectmen reviewed and signed a settlement recommendation from the assessor for an abatement appeal filed with the BTLA.

Chief Scott Young discussed with the Selectmen the manner in which he should present the information pertaining to the Police Department's Special Detail Account in his annual report to the Town.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board a motion was made, seconded, and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:47.