

TOWN OF HEBRON
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2022 BUDGET AND WARRANT ARTICLES
MARCH 29, 2022

PRESENT: Pat Moriarty, Paul Hazelton, and Karen Sanborn, Town Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT: Robbie Flynn, Gerry Flynn, John Dunklee, Audrey Johnson, Arthur Cummings, Don Franklin, Jack Sheehan, Suzanne Sheehan, Ivan Quinchia, Mike Reiss, Bob Brooks, Alison York, John Fischer, Linda Fischer, Dick Cowern, Joyce Cowern, Travis Austin

ABSENT: Rich James

6:30 P.M. **OPEN PUBLIC HEARING:** Chair Moriarty commenced the meeting. Chair Moriarty informed the attendees that this hearing was for the 2022 Budget and Warrant Articles that would be voted on at the May Town Meeting. Any changes to the amounts raised (up or down) would have to be heard at a second Public Hearing.

6:32 P.M. **Warrant Article 1:** Chair Moriarty read Warrant Article 1 to choose all Town Officers for the ensuing year by official ballot. Chair Moriarty noted that this would be voted on during the day on May 10, 2022.

Warrant Article 2: Chair Moriarty read Warrant Article 2 to vote to authorize the Selectmen to appoint a town treasurer in accordance with RSA41:26-e, rather than electing a treasurer. Chair Moriarty relayed to the attendees that any person could be elected into the Treasurer position and may not have the qualifications to perform the duties. The Treasurer's position requires special financial skills.

Warrant Article 3: Selectman Hazelton read Warrant Article 3 to vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,815 for the purchase of two driver feedback radar speed signs. Chief Austin informed the attendees that the radar signs do assist with traffic becoming more aware of the speed at which they travel. The signs can be easily moved around the town as they would be affixed to speed limit sign posts.

Warrant Article 4: Chairman Moriarty read Warrant Article 4 to raise and appropriate the sum of \$101,970 to reclaim, repair, and repave Bear Mountain Road. Chair Moriarty informed the attendees that this road was recommended to the Board by the Highway Supervisor to be done this year. The town tries to perform significant maintenance on one or two roads a year in order to keep the infrastructure in good shape. Bob Brooks asked what reclaim meant. Chair Moriarty replied that the existing pavement would be ground up as opposed to leaving the pavement and paving on top of the pavement.

Warrant Article 5: Selectman Hazelton read Warrant Article 5 to vote to reclassify a portion of Berea Road pursuant to RSA 231:22-a from a Class VI Road to a Class V Road from the intersection of West Shore Road to the large culvert on Berea Road. Selectman Hazelton informed the audience that the apron to this road at the West Shore Road intersection is dangerous. At times, the school bus has refused to travel down the road due to the condition. John Dunklee asked the Board if Mike Bogart had been approached as he owns property at the beginning on both sides of Berea Road. Don Franklin asked if this would resolve the argument with Camp Berea. Chair Moriarty stated the road would be able to be maintained and that the section of Berea Road proposed to change would be from Trout Brook (culvert location) to West Shore Road.

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Warrant Article 6: Selectman Hazelton read Warrant Article 6 to raise and appropriate the sum of \$115,000 to hire an engineering firm to complete a Dredge & Fill application in order to be able to dredge the mouth of the Cockermouth River and to dredge the material from the river. This is a non-lapsing article. Selectman Hazelton relayed that he had been working with two firms to do the project, but does not have an accurate figure. The permitting cost \$15,000, but the town has to pay for the amount of material removed from the river. Chair Moriarty informed the attendees that dredging the mouth of the river will improve the water flow at the beach as the town has been removing hundreds of yards of silt and leaves to clean up the beach. John Dunklee suggested contacting Bobby Souperon as he has dredged this area in the past and would be able to work with the company hired to do the project. Selectman Hazelton stated that he had contacted companies in the Winnepesaukee Area, Londonderry, NH, and Newington, NH. Dick Cowern recommended to the Board contacting West Shore Marine since they have a barge that would support an excavator. Suzanne Sheehan asked if once the dredging had happened would this impact the beach sand along the shore. Chair Moriarty replied that the shoreline should not be impacted as the flow of the water would not be directed in front of the Hebron Memorial Beach.

Warrant Article 7: Chair Moriarty read Warrant Article 7 to raise and appropriate \$8,100 for a trailer to house the Gazebo Program equipment. Chair Moriarty informed the attendees that currently the sound equipment and tents are stored in the Old Fire Station, but is loaded into a privately-owned trailer for each program and then unloaded. This trailer would hold the equipment and allow for storage. Don Franklin asked if other departments could use the trailer when there are not programs. Bob Brooks replied that the equipment for the programs would remain in the trailer.

Warrant Article 8: Bob Brooks asked the Board to hold off on the appropriations as the warrant article is written requesting an incorrect amount. Chair Moriarty asked Mr. Brooks to give update on rain date schedule for the Gazebo Programs. Bob Brooks informed the attendees that if a program is scheduled and it is raining; the program will be changed to an alternate date as opposed to moving the group to the Public Safety Building to perform.

Warrant Article 9: Chair Moriarty read Warrant Article 9 to raise and appropriate \$99,000 to be added to the capital reserve funds and reserve funds as follows:

Police	\$8,000
Highway	\$20,000
Fire	\$20,000
Ambulance	\$15,000
Communications	\$5,000
Assessment Services	\$14,000
Cemetery Tombstones and Fence	\$2,000
Road Emergency Repairs	\$5,000
Culvert Repair & Maintenance	\$5,000
Preservation of Town Records	\$5,000

Chair Moriarty commented that this is the annual appropriation to various capital reserve funds in saving for future purchases or projects. Chief Fischer informed the attendees that the Select Board asked him to spec out a new ambulance, which a similar ambulance was brought to the Public Safety Building this week and priced out for \$350,000. Also, the oldest fire engine should be replaced in 2026 which, in the current market, priced out for between \$600,000 and \$700,000. Chief Fischer expressed concerns with purchasing the equipment outright with the amounts allocated to be deposited into the Fire Capital Reserve Fund and the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund each year. Chair Moriarty informed the attendees that Ivan Quinchia (Planning Board Chair) has ~~reserected~~ resurrected the Capital Improvements Project Committee to assist the Select Board and departments with planning for future equipment purchases and plan for large projects. Don Franklin asked what the Cemetery Tombstones

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and Fence Capital Reserve Fund was for. Ms. Sanborn replied that this was set up to maintain the cemetery tombstones, clean the tombstones, and maintain the fence around the cemeteries. Mr. Franklin thought that the perpetual care funds would help pay for the maintenance of headstones and plots. Chair Moriarty stated that the town can not utilize the perpetual care funds as they are for a specific plot.

Warrant Article 10: Selectman Hazelton read Warrant Article 10 to establish a Library/Community Center Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purposes of contracting with a civil engineer to prepare plans for the building that would be adequate for obtaining a construction estimate, studying, designing and potentially constructing a new library/community center and to raise and appropriate \$15,000 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Selectmen as the agents to expend from said fund. Selectman Hazelton informed the attendees that the Town Space Needs Committee have met extensively and contributed a great deal of time in preparation for moving forward with a Library/Community Center that would be beneficial to Hebron and its' residents and taxpayers. The Committee actually was requesting \$115,000 to be able to have a preliminary design to go forward with plans ready for bidding in December of 2023. Mike Reiss (Chair of the Town Space Needs Committee) spoke to the article giving the breakdown of the proposed \$115,000 as follows - \$73,000 for the architect, \$20,000 for a civil engineer, \$10,000 for prints, and \$12,000 for any unknowns in this project. Selectman Hazelton commented that the Board presents the items to the voters for them to decide on projects they would like to see in town. Chief Fischer commented that the proposed location of the library/community center is where the Old Fire Station is located and questioned where would the Fire Department store the current contents of the building. Selectman Hazelton stated that one idea is to leave the building to transition to the Public Safety Building, but more information may be available by the May 3rd meeting. Ivan Quinchia commented that the Historical Society would have to move their contents stored in the Old Fire Station as well. Mr. Quinchia suggested volunteers getting together to assist the Fire Department to sort through the items that need to be moved. Mr. Franklin suggested a small storage building to be constructed next to the Public Safety Building. Chair Moriarty congratulated the Space Needs Committee for the work contributed to this project. Mike Reiss moved to amend Warrant Article 10 to be \$115,000, seconded by Ivan Quinchia. The vote passed.

Warrant Article 11: Chair Moriarty read Warrant Article 11 to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,557,754 as an operating budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Chair Moriarty informed the attendees that the overall budget increased 8% from 2021's budget. Chair Moriarty outlined the increases as follows: due to future changes in the Fire Department based on anticipated retirements, the legal account line was doubled due to possible legal issues, and the Board addressed wages based on cost of living adjustment as some employees pay had not been addressed since 2017. Chair Moriarty stated that any funds not spent from the budget goes back into the fund balance which gives the Select Board ~~has~~ the opportunity to reduce the town portion of the tax rate by utilizing these funds. Mike Reiss wanted to applaud the Select Board for taking the proactive approach with addressing wages as good employees are hard to find and need to be kept. John Dunklee asked the Board for the estimated town tax rate with the warrant articles and budget. Ms. Sanborn replied \$3.80. Chair Moriarty stated that the 2021 town tax rate was \$2.89. Mr. Dunklee commented that some residents may have a hard time paying property taxes with this much of an increase.

7:15 P.M **MEETING ADJOURNED:** John Dunklee moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alison York. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sanborn
Town Administrator

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