



## TOWN OF THORNTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Town of Thornton • 16 Merrill Access Road • Thornton NH, 03285 • 603.726.8168

Approved on:	<u>5/14/14</u>
BOS Initial:	<u>SM</u>
Rec'd by Town Clerk on:	<u>5/21/14</u>

### Board of Selectmen Public Hearing Minutes January 27, 2014

**4:00 P.M. Chairman B. Benton opened the Thornton Board of Selectmen meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**ROLL CALL:** Chairman Brad Benton, Vice-Chairman Roy Sabourn, Selectwoman Marianne Peabody, Selectmen John Paul-Hilliard, and Selectman Steve Morton.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tammie A. Beaulieu, Town Administrator

#### **4:00 PM TOUR OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT RENOVATIONS**

The Board of Selectmen completed the tour of the new police department addition.

T. Beaulieu presented packets for the Phase II project to the Board of Selectmen.

#### **2014 WARRANT / OPERATING BUDGET DISCUSSION**

The board discussed a previous request from Chief Moller for a proposed warrant article for a nuisance dog ordinance. R. Sabourn explained that the language in the warrant needs to be more specific relative to a barking/nuisance dog ordinance in order for the Police Department to respond to nuisance calls.

T. Beaulieu recommended that the board review and motion one warrant article at a time. T. Beaulieu suggested that more research be completed regarding the dog ordinance. T. Beaulieu explained that if the board decides to include additional wording for the dog ordinance after further research, they can do so after the public hearing since it is not a money article.

T. Beaulieu explained that all money articles must be motioned and approved before the public hearing when they discuss the dollar amounts.

The board agreed to review the proposed warrant and reviewed the warrant articles one at a time.

#### *Article 8:*

The board discussed the proposed operating budget dated January 22, 2014 in the total amount of \$2,758,188.00. M. Peabody updated the board of her research on the increased or decreased funding requests from health agencies. After a lengthy discussion the board agreed to some of the requested increases in donations and they decided to level fund other donation requests.

T. Beaulieu reviewed the increases and decreases made by the Board during the previous board meeting. T. Beaulieu informed the board that M. Peabody suggested reducing the sweeping highway expense line. The Road Agent agreed to reduce that line to \$2,000. T. Beaulieu reviewed additional cuts that department heads have agreed to make as a result of the Select board's discussion at the previous board meeting.

T. Beaulieu informed the board that the new bottom line budget amount including capital reserves and the revisions as discussed is \$2,753,231.00 this figure includes COLA increase as approved by the board during their previous board meeting.

The board noted that the original proposed budget has been reduced by \$83,698.00 from 2013 operating budget. The 2014 final proposed budget shows an increase of only \$32,557.00 which is a 1.01% increase.

**The operating budget amount for approval is \$2,550,231.00 (\$203,000 specifically for reserves is not included in the operating budget amount).**

J. Demeritt questioned if the bond goes down there will be \$45,196 left over. T. Beaulieu explained that she is waiting to hear if DRA will allow the board to amend another article on town floor to increase by this amount. S. Morton recommended adding to Article 4 at town meeting for capital reserves. The board agreed.

### **6:00 PM PUBLIC HEARING—10 YEAR BOND \$525,000 FOR PHASE II—TOWN HALL**

The board of selectmen for the Town of Thornton will hold a public hearing in accordance with NH RSA 33:8-a on Monday, January 27, 2014 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Thornton Town Hall to consider obtaining a 10 year bond in the amount of \$525,000 for Phase II of the Town Hall addition.

*Present: Jim Demeritt, Chief Moller, Bill DeLeo and Tim Tyler*

R. Sabourn recommended adding \$45,196.00 to Article 4 if Article 3 does not pass since it is already in the CIP program.

S. Madelia stated that the designing plans for the police department were worked on for over a year, last year at town meeting the board told the residents that they were planning to move forward with the Phase I and II as long as the bids did not exceed the allotted budget. If they bids came in higher, the board agreed to only complete Phase I and then return to the townspeople for the Phase II of the project. He recommends moving forward to present the plans for Phase II for the Town Hall at town meeting.

S. Madelia highlighted the benefits to the building renovations. If the town does not approve the Phase II funding, there will still be \$270,000 included in the capital improvements plan and will be used for other township needs. This results in a zero/minimal tax impact for the townspeople.

T. Tyler stated that the average person attending the meeting may not understand what the CIP means and recommends that the plan be described. T. Beaulieu explained that the CIP is a capital investment program put in place by towns so that all of the department heads submit large requests for budget items at the same time. Thornton has an active CIP program that works very well for the town. Each year \$270,000 goes into the CIP program to cover leases, bonds, or capital reserves. Capital reserves are in place as a type of savings account for large purchases needed by departments, such as police cruisers, fire trucks, etc. which helps to create a level tax rate from year to year.

S. Madelia stated that the town has kept its rate fairly steady over the past few years using the CIP program; it is more the school and county tax rate that has fluctuated.

J. Demeritt explained that there were unknown factors, such as electric upgrade needs, that impacted the additional costs for the Phase I renovations. The contractors are in a better position to estimate the Phase II portion since they have more information about the Town Hall building now after completing Phase I.

S. Morton explained that the board did not move forward with the Phase II due to the higher cost that was received as promised during last year town meeting. He stated that the approved amount for \$297,000 has been honored and included a sincere effort for valued engineering. The board tried to reduce costs to be at

the \$596,000 approved by the board for both phases, but could not and decided to only move forward with the Phase I portion as approved at town meeting.

B. DeLeo questioned the breakdown of the amount of \$525,000 for the addition and asked if the borrowing cost is in addition to the \$525,000 bond request amount.

T. Beaulieu explained that the Phase II alone is estimated at \$488,000, however, the architect cost and the roof that is needed for the town hall raises the estimate to a total of \$525,000. The roof will need to be completed regardless of the Phase II, the board chose to include this expense in the bond amount request. The interest is included in this amount as well.

The vote will require a 2/3 vote by secret ballot to pass. The \$270,000 will still be included in the budget for CIP and will be used for interior building expenses including the new roof.

T. Tyler stated that the board published a notice to the taxpayers to inform them of the status of the Phase I project and was a step beyond the expectations of the Selectboard's responsibilities. T. Tyler was pleased with this gesture to inform the townspeople.

B. DeLeo questioned if the federal grant will completely cover the generator. Chief Moller replied that the Clerk of Works, Kelley Bolger has this information and will be prepared to answer this question at the town meeting. Discussion continued on what might happen if the federal government does not honor granting promises.

B. DeLeo questioned if the approved contracted amount with CCI will be increased due to unforeseen problems. J. Demeritt stated that CCI has honored the estimate and has guaranteed its validity.

S. Morton is not in favor of the Phase II project and feels that the funds can be better used for the infrastructure of the town roads. He feels that the large meeting space needs can be accommodated at the Thornton School if necessary. He believes that there is minimal growth in the town and if in the future, there is growth then he may change his opinion. He feels that the road infrastructure would better serve the town.

S. Morton stated that Article 4 only allocates \$6,000 for the roads. If the Phase II article does not pass, he plans to vote to increase Article 4 by \$45,000, that did not pay for the interest of the bond for the renovation project.

R. Sabourn is in favor of the renovation process and has the opposite opinion of Selectman Morton. R. Sabourn agreed that the viewpoints will be discussed at town meeting and the people will have the opportunity to decide based on the information presented.

T. Tyler stated that the school board budget is expecting a minimal increase.

**MOTION 7:10 P.M.: "To close the public hearing on the bond request."**

Motion: S. Morton  
Seconded: R. Sabourn  
Discussion: None.  
Motion Passes: 5- Yes, 0 - No

**B. Benton read Article 3: "To see if the will town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$525, 000 for the renovation and addition to the Thornton Town Hall and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$525,000 bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act RSA Chapter 33 and to authorize the selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of the interest and therein for this purpose."**

**MOTION 7:11 P.M.: "To approve Article 3 as written and to include in the 2014 Warrant."**

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: S. Morton

*Discussion:* S. Morton stated that he would like the article to be voted on by the towns people, however he does not personally recommend passing the article. M. Peabody would like to include this on the warrant but does not agree with recommending the passing of the article. The motion made is to include the article as written in the 2014 warrant for vote by the townspeople. B. Benton discussed that he was not in agreement with this article until he attended a previous meeting and was informed that the passing of this article would not affect the repair and maintenance of the town roads.

Roll Call: B. Benton – Yes                      S. Morton – Yes                      R. Sabourn – Yes

Paul-Hilliard – Yes                      M. Peabody – Yes

**Motion Passes: 5– Yes, 0 – No**

**MOTION 7:15 P.M.: "To recommend passing Article 3 and to require a 2/3 ballot vote."**

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: S. Morton

*Discussion:* S. Morton and M. Peabody agreed that the motion previously was to include the warrant article as written on the Warrant but that they do not personally recommend passing the article.

Roll Call: B. Benton – Yes                      S. Morton – No                      R. Sabourn – Yes

Paul-Hilliard – Yes                      M. Peabody – No

**Motion Passes: 3– Yes, 2 – No**

T. Beaulieu will contact NH DRA to see if the board's vote can be included in the warrant article that states the board's recommendation and if individual board members can speak against a recommendation of the board.

**B. Benton read Article 4: "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000 to be added to the existing road paving, construction and repair capital reserve fund."**

**MOTION: "To approve and recommend Article 4 as written for the 2014 Warrant"**

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: S. Morton

*Discussion:* None.

Roll Call: B. Benton – Yes                      S. Morton – Yes                      R. Sabourn – Yes

Paul-Hilliard – Yes                      M. Peabody – Yes

**Motion Passes: 5– Yes, 0 – No**

**B. Benton read Article 5: "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$114,000 to be added to the existing fire truck rescue vehicle equipment and major maintenance capital reserve fund."**

**MOTION: "To approve and recommend Article 5 as written for the 2014 Warrant"**

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: M. Peabody

*Discussion:* None.

Roll Call: B. Benton – Yes                      S. Morton – Yes                      R. Sabourn – Yes

Paul-Hilliard – Yes                      M. Peabody – Yes

**Motion Passes: 5– Yes, 0 – No**

**B. Benton read Article 6: "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the existing police cruiser and cruiser equipment capital reserve fund."**

**MOTION: "To approve and recommend Article 6 as written for the 2014 Warrant"**

Motion: R. Sabourn  
Seconded: M. Peabody  
*Discussion:* None.  
Roll Call: B. Benton – Yes      S. Morton – Yes      R. Sabourn – Yes  
                 Paul-Hilliard – Yes      M. Peabody – Yes

**Motion Passes: 5– Yes, 0 – No**

**B. Benton read Article 7: "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$58,000 to be added to the existing assessing capital reserve fund."**

**MOTION: "To approve and recommend Article 7 as written for the 2014 Warrant"**

Motion: R. Sabourn  
Seconded: M. Peabody  
*Discussion:* None.  
Roll Call: B. Benton – Yes      S. Morton – Yes      R. Sabourn – Yes  
                 Paul-Hilliard – Yes      M. Peabody – Yes

**Motion Passes: 5– Yes, 0 – No**

**B. Benton read Article 8: "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,550,231 to support town operations for 2014, said sum does not include special or individual articles."**

**MOTION: "To approve and recommend Article 8 as written in the amount of \$2,550,231 as the operating budget."**

Motion: J. Paul-Hilliard  
Seconded: M. Peabody  
*Discussion:* None.  
Roll Call: B. Benton – Yes      S. Morton – Yes      R. Sabourn – Yes  
                 Paul-Hilliard – Yes      M. Peabody – Yes

**Motion Passes: 5– Yes, 0 – No**

The Thornton Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing with the Campton Board of Selectmen at the Campton Town Hall for the purposed of conducting a joint Budget Hearing with the Towns of Thornton, Campton, Ellsworth, and the Fire Commissioners regarding the proposed 2014 budgets for the Campton/Thornton Fire and Rescue Department and the Transfer Station and Recycling Center at 7:30PM this evening.

**MOTION 7:15 PM "To adjourn to attend a joint meeting in Campton."**

Motion: S. Morton  
Seconded: J. Paul-Hilliard  
*Discussion:* None.  
Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 - No

Respectfully submitted,

Jessi Fleury  
Board Secretary  
Draft posted 2/3/2014