

Town of Newington, NH  
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 1, 2018 Town Hall

Chair John Lamson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

**Present:** John Lamson-Chair, Rick Stern, Jennifer Kent Wiener, David Mueller, School Board Rep, Sandra Sweeney, James Belanger, Alan Wilson, Ted Connors-Selectmen's rep.

**Absent:** Brandon Arsenault, Katherine Latchaw

**Guests:** Jan Stuart-Board of Selectmen Chair, Mike Marconi-Selectman, Salvatore Petralia, SAU 50 Superintendent of Schools, Amy Ransom-SAU 50 Assistant Business Administrator, Debbie Zabkar-Finance Director, Denis Hebert-Planning Board Chair, Mike Bilodeau-Police Chief, Andy Head-Fire Chief, Jeff LeDuc-Assistant Fire Chief, Cosmas Iocovozzi-Cemetery Trustee, Margaret Lamson-Cemetery Trustee, Peter Latchaw-Newington School Principal, Lara Croft-Library Director, Steve Prefontaine-Police Commissioner, Ken Latchaw-Police Commissioner, Martha Roy-Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder. Residents and members of the SAU 50, Fire Department, Police Department, Newington School and Library were present.

**School Budget Review:**

Amy Ransom reviewed the School Operating Budget for the Newington School District. The budget has a 5.1% increase due to increases in teachers' salaries, preschool contracted services and special education. Salvatore Petralia would like to thank Mary Reddick and Jim Katkin for all their years of service to the school and SAU50. They are both retiring on 6/30/18, they will be missed.

**Article 1: Proposed Operating Budget.** D. Mueller moved to recommend Article 1 in the amount of \$2,249,905. R. Stern seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

**Article 2: Appropriate Funds to the Special Education Trust Fund.** S. Sweeney moved to recommend Article 2 in the amount of \$30,000. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

**Article 3: Appropriate Funds to Buildings and Grounds Expendable Trust Fund.** J. Belanger moved to recommend Article 3 in the amount of \$20,000. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

**Article 4: Appropriate Funds into the Tuition Trust Fund.** J. Belanger moved to recommend Article 3 in the amount of \$17,350. D. Mueller seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

J. Lamson recessed the meeting and then called the meeting back to order and the Budget Committee proceeded to hold the Town Budget Public Hearing.

S. Sweeney moved to approve the minutes of January 24, 2018. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion. A. Wilson and J. Belanger abstained with all others in favor.

T. Connors moved to amend the Selectmen's budget by \$30,791 and the Police budget by \$6,676.00. The Selectmen's budget increase is for \$5,791 in the Police Capital Outlay and \$25,000 in the Fire Capital Outlay. R. Stern seconded the motion with all in favor.

### **Town Budget Public Hearing**

J. Lamson asked for questions or comments on the town budget. Erica Mantz asked why the Sewer budget had increased. M. Roy explained that they recently did a huge upgrade to the Waste Water Treatment Plant and the first bond payment is due in 2018. The bond payment will be paid with revenues received. Melissa Prefontaine asked about the necessity of the Highway Foreman position. T. Connors explained that beginning in September 2019 the Town has to take over the care of Woodbury Ave. The Selectmen are preparing for the increased workload on the Highway Department. M. Prefontaine also asked about the conservation land warrant article. M. Roy explained that the Conservation Commission is trying to conserve land around Knight's Brook to preserve the watershed. Jennifer Philbrick, David Obertanec, Jack O'Reilly and Sandy Sweeney spoke in support of the additional Police Patrolman, Denis Hebert would like to see separate warrant articles for the repair and replacement of vehicles. Jack O'Reilly spoke about changing the name on a Capital Reserve Fund. M. Roy explained that she had contacted the NHDRA to get the correct language in the warrant article for the change. The vote will take place at Town Meeting and 2/3 vote is needed to make the change.

### **Warrant Articles:**

#### **Article 1: Operating Budget**

J. Kent Weiner moved to recommend the warrant article to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of (7,693,490.00) for the operating budget. This article does not include appropriations voted in special or individual warrant articles addressed

separately. R. Stern seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

**Article 2: New Police Patrolman Position**

R. Stern moved to recommend the warrant article to fund one new Police Patrolman, in the amount of \$72,000, to the Town. D. Mueller seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

**Article 3: New Highway Working Foreman Position**

J. Kent Weiner moved to recommend the warrant article to fund one new Highway Working Foreman, in the amount of \$52,000, to the Town. A. Wilson seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. R. Stern opposed and all others in favor.

**Article 4: Replacement and/or repair of Vehicles Operated by the Fire Department**

R. Stern moved to recommend the Replacement and/or repair of Vehicles Operated by the Fire Department capital reserve fund warrant article, in the amount of \$50,000, to the town. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

**Article 5: Major Road Work Fund**

S. Sweeney moved to recommend the Major Road Wok capital reserve fund warrant article, in the amount of \$50,000 to the town. R. Stern seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

**Article 6: Ripley Property Conservation Easement**

J. Belanger moved to recommend the Ripley Property Conservation Easement warrant article, in the amount of \$40,000, to the town. D. Mueller seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

**Article 7: Municipal Buildings Emergency Repairs**

R. Stern moved to recommend the Municipal Buildings Emergency Repairs capital reserve fund warrant article, in the amount of \$30,000, to the town. D. Mueller seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

**Article 8: Conservation Fund**

J. Kent Weiner moved to recommend the Conservation fund warrant article, in the amount of \$30,000, to the town. J. Belanger seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

**Article 9: Severance to Town Employees**

R. Stern moved to recommend the Severance to Town Employees Trust fund warrant article, in the amount of \$30,000, to the town. D. Mueller seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

**Article 10: Conservation Fund**

D. Mueller moved to recommend the Conservation fund warrant article, in the amount of \$30,000, to the town. S. Sweeney seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

**Article 11: Replacement of the Town Ambulance and any Major Medical Equipment**

S. Sweeney moved to recommend the Replacement of the Town Ambulance and any Major Medical Equipment fund warrant article, in the amount of \$10,000, to the town. A. Wilson seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

**Article 12: Town Generators Fund**

R. Stern moved to recommend the Town Generators Capital Reserve fund warrant article, in the amount of \$10,000, to the town. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

**Article 13: Replacement of Fire Department SCBA Fund**

J. Belanger moved to recommend the Replacement of Fire Equipment SCBA equipment capital reserve fund warrant article, in the amount of \$10,000, to the town. D. Mueller seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

**Article 14: Town Recreational Facilities and Equipment**

D. Mueller moved to recommend the Town Recreational Facilities and Equipment fund warrant article, in the amount of \$2,500, to the town. S. Sweeney seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

S. Sweeney moved to adjourn at 7:48 pm. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Boy  
Recorder