

**TOWN OF NORTHWOOD
DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 3, 2018**

Moderator Hal Kreider opened the meeting at 9:05 AM by introducing members of the panel, including Selectman Donald Hodgdon, Selectman Scott Bryer, Selectman Rick Wolf, Acting Town Administrator Sandy Garrett, Attorney Steven Whitley and Ginger Dole, Chairman of the Budget Committee. He went on to state that the procedures of this meeting were listed in the handout given out at time of registration along with the Voter's Guide. He informed the audience that this session would consist of explanation, discussion and deliberation of the Warrant Articles numbered Two (2) through Twenty-One (21). He explained that the Warrant Articles could be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) Warrant Articles whose wording was prescribed by law shall not be amended, and (b) Warrant Articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion as amended.

He noted that the Voting Session to act on all Warrant Articles, as amended, including the proposed budget, as a result of the action of the "*First Session*" would be held at the Parish Center at St. Joseph's Church, 844 First NH Turnpike, in said Northwood on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 and that the polls would be open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

He announced the Kid's Annual Fishing Derby, the Candidates Night on February 21 and the availability of Ready Rides, whose contact person is Betty Smith. He then asked the audience to join in with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, acknowledging all veterans in attendance. He then went on to present the warrant, indicating that the first item on the warrant was the election of officers.

Jim Vaillancourt then moved and Selectman Bryer seconded to allow non-residents to speak with any pertinent information. With a show of cards, the motion passed.

Article 2: 2018 OPERATING BUDGET

Ginger Dole, Chairman of the Budget Committee moved and Betty Smith seconded to see if the Town would raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **three million, six hundred forty-seven thousand, four hundred twenty-four dollars (\$3,647,424)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget would be **three million, five hundred thirty-five thousand, six hundred eighty dollars (\$3,535,680)** which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. **(Tax impact: \$0.15) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**. With no discussion or comments, by a show of cards, the article was voted to be placed on the ballot as written.

ARTICLE 3: FIRE APPARATUS LEASE/PURCHASE

Selectman Bryer moved and Ms. Dole seconded to see if the Town would raise and appropriate the sum of **fifty-six thousand, nine hundred twelve dollars (\$56,912)** for the fourth of five yearly payments for the lease/purchase of the new pumper truck, and to fund the payment by withdrawing the sum of **fifty-six thousand, nine hundred twelve dollars (\$56,912)** from the Fire/Rescue Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund. This lease agreement was approved in 2015 and does not contain an escape clause. **(No Tax impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**. With no discussion or comments, by a show of cards, the article was moved to be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 4: EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND DEPOSITS

Selectman Bryer moved and Ms. Dole seconded to see if the Town would vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **fifty-five thousand, six hundred fifty-four dollars (\$55,654.00)**, to be placed in the following existing expendable trust funds created under RSA 31:19 –a. These amounts represent the amount of user fees deposited in the general fund in 2017 for these purposes, and the appropriation shall be funded by the withdrawal of **55,654.00** from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2017. **(No tax impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by Budget Committee 13/0)**.

Cable Expendable Trust Fund	Transfer Station Expendable Trust Fund
\$36,708.00	\$17,846.00
	Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund
	\$1,100.00

There being no discussion, by a show of cards, the article was voted to be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 5: VESTED BENEFIT EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND DEPOSIT

Selectman Bryer moved and Ms. Dole seconded to see if the Town would vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)** to be added to the Benefit Vested Time Expendable Trust Fund previously established. **(Tax Impact: \$.02) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**.

With no discussion and by a show of cards, the article was approved to be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 6: DEFIBRILLATOR PAYMENT

Selectman Hodgdon moved and Selectman Bryer seconded to see if the Town would vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **thirteen thousand, three hundred eighty-four dollars (\$13,384)** for the fifth of five yearly payments for two defibrillators for the Northwood Fire Department, and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of said sum from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2017. This lease agreement contains an escape

clause. **(Tax impact: \$0.00) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0).**

There was no discussion or comments, so with a show of cards the article was voted to be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 7: HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE DEPOSIT

Selectman Bryer moved and Selectman Wolf seconded to see if the Town would vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **eighteen thousand, five hundred dollars (\$18,500)** to be deposited into the previously established Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. **(Tax Impact \$0.04) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0).** As there was no discussion, it was voted by a show of cards to place the article on the ballot as written.

Article 8: LAGOON MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

Selectman Hodgdon moved and Selectman Bryer seconded to see if the Town would vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fourteen thousand, seven hundred dollars (\$14,700)**, to be placed in the Lagoon Maintenance and Repair Expendable Trust Fund and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of that amount from the Lagoon Special Revenue Fund held by the Northwood Treasurer. **(No tax impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by Budget Committee 13/0).** No discussion followed, so with a show of cards, it was voted to place the article on the ballot as written.

Article 9: RED LISTED BRIDGE ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION

Selectman Bryer moved and Selectman Wolf seconded to see if the Town would raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred ninety-eight thousand dollars (\$698,000) for the engineering and construction of Bridge Replacement on Bow Lake Road over Shelburne Brook and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$140,000) from the Red listed Bridges Capital Reserve Fund, and five hundred fifty-eight thousand dollars (\$558,000) in Grant Revenue from NH Dot Bridge Aid Program. This is to be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7-A, and will not lapse until the project is complete or December 31 2020, whichever is sooner. **(Tax impact \$0.00) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

Attorney Whitley asked to have a correction made to the RSA reference, changing it to RSA 32:7-vi, stating it appeared to be a typographical error. Betty Smith moved and Tom Chase seconded to make this correction. With a show of cards, it was voted to make this change. Winnie Young brought up the fact that the name of the brook listed in the article should be changed to Sherburne Brook. She moved and Selectman Bryer seconded to make this change as well. Mr. Vaillancourt stated his concern about the "No Tax Impact" statement, to which Ms. Garrett responded that there was no issue because the Town gets the funds from the State before any money is spent. She also stated that Shelburne Brook was how the brook was listed in the original document and Attorney Whitley stated there would not be an issue with changing the spelling of the brook. With another show of cards it was voted to change the name of the brook to Sherburne Brook.

With no further discussion, it was voted by a show of cards to place the article on the ballot as amended.

Article 10: RED LISTED BRIDGE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND DEPOSIT

Selectmen Hodgdon moved and Selectman Bryer seconded to see if the Town would vote to raise and appropriate **eighty-four thousand dollars (\$84,000)** to deposit into the fund. This is the third of three deposits. The fund was established in 2016 to support the replacement of failing bridges in Northwood. **(Tax Impact 0.18) (Majority vote required)**
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)

With no discussion, the article was approved as written by a show of cards, to be placed on the ballot.

Article 11: FACILITIES COMMITTEE EXPENDABLE TRUST DEPOSIT

Selectman Bryer moved and Selectman Wolf seconded to see if the Town would vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **thirteen thousand, five hundred dollars (\$13,500)** to be deposited into the Facilities committee expendable trust fund previously established for the maintenance, improvement, repairs and replacement of general government buildings. **(Tax impact \$0.03) (Majority vote required)**
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)

There being no discussion, by a show of cards it was voted to place the article on the ballot as written.

Article 12: NORTHWOOD'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY EXPENDABLE TRUST

Selectman Hodgdon moved and Selectman Wolf seconded to see if the Town would vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **two thousand dollars (\$2,000)** to be deposited into the 250th Anniversary Expendable Trust Fund to support efforts to recognize the town's 250th anniversary. **(Tax Impact: \$0.02) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

Mr. Vaillancourt stated that there is currently a Bicentennial Trust Fund with \$8,000 in it. He asked that because we will not be having another Bicentennial celebration, could that money be transferred into this account. He was told that this could be done, but would have to be brought before the Town in next year's budget process to make that change. Selectman Hodgdon noted that the amount in this article had been increased this year to \$2,000 to make sure we had a good celebration.

There was no more discussion, so with a show of cards, it was voted to place the article on the ballot as written.

Article 13: POLICE CRUISER PURCHASE

Selectman Hodgdon moved and Selectman Wolf seconded to see if the Town would vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **thirty-two thousand dollars (\$32,000)** for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new Police Cruiser. **(Tax impact \$0.07) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 0/14)**

Selectman Bryer asked to increase the amount of this article to cover equipping the cruiser. He stated that if this article was defeated, the funds would not be able to be taken out of the operating budget to purchase a cruiser.

Ms. Dole made a motion and Keith McGuigan seconded to amend the article to read **“to see if the town will vote to establish a committee to study the best way to fund police cruisers on an ongoing basis.”** Attorney Whitley stated that the article could be amended this way. Linda Smith stated she thought the article should be left as written, and if additional funds were needed for the equipment, take that money out of the operating budget. Selectman Bryer suggested changing the amount to \$1.00 because the money was already in the budget. Bob Strobel asked if this article were to be amended, would the Budget Committee have a chance to change their recommendation and Attorney Whitley stated that both the Budget Committee and Selectmen would be able to readdress it.

Rebecca Rule said she favored the amendment to reduce confusion of having a warrant article as well as the money already in the operating budget, similar to last year on the kindergarten issue. Mr. Strobel stated he backed the amendment as well.

By a show of cards the amendment passed. Mr. Vaillancourt stated that with the No Means No theory, he thought this was very confusing, and was upset that this article was even in the Warrant. After further clarification of the amendment, there was no further discussion. So, by a show of cards, the article was approved to be placed on the ballot as amended.

The Moderator mentioned that if anyone in the audience was interested in serving on the committee if this article passed, they should contact the Selectmen to be considered.

At this point, the Moderator asked Robert Young, the Assistant Moderator, to take over the meeting.

Article 14: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BACKHOE LEASE/PURCHASE

Selectman Bryer moved and Selectman Wolf seconded to see if the town would vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a five-year lease/purchase agreement for **one hundred ten thousand, nine hundred dollars (\$110,900)** for the purpose of purchasing a backhoe for the highway Department, to trade in the existing backhoe for **fifteen thousand, nine hundred (\$15,900)** and to raise and appropriate an amount of **twenty thousand (\$20,000)** for the first year's lease payment. This will be the first of five payments. The lease agreement contains an escape clause. **(Tax impact: \$0.05) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13/2)**

With no discussion and by a show of cards, the article was approved to go on the ballot as written.

Article 15: ROAD CONSTRUCTION/RESURFACING

Selectman Bryer moved and Selectman Hodgdon seconded to see if the Town would vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)** to be used for the

construction, reconstruction, and/or resurfacing of town roads, and the refurbishing of ditches and culverts as recommended by the Highway Advisory Committee. **(Tax Impact: 0.22)**
(Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)

Fred Borman asked about the Bow Lake Road repair done last year, and when Sherburne Hill Road would be done. Selectman Bryer stated that Sherburne Hill Road would be addressed this year and approximately 2/3rds would be completed. He also stated that the contractor on the Bow Lake Road project was called back, and an additional \$3,000 was charged to make the repair. He also commented that he was not sure what the cost to complete it would be. Selectman Wolf stated that the contractor was not completely paid and that in the Spring the Board would revisit the situation.

Mr. Strobel commented that he had been the one who prepared the 7-year road plan, and that he urged the Selectmen to continue with the plan even after that 7-year's plan was done.

With no more discussion and with a show of cards, the article was approved to be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 16: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

Selectman Hodgdon moved and Selectman Wolf seconded to see if the Town would raise and appropriate the sum of **seven thousand dollars (\$7,000)** to be deposited into the previously established Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Expendable Trust fund. **(Tax Impact: less than .02) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

There was no discussion on the article, so with a show of cards, the article was approved to be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 17: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES TREATMENT AND CONTROL EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

Selectman Wolf moved and Selectman Bryer seconded to see if the Town would vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000)** to be deposited into the previously established Aquatic Invasive Species Treatment and Control Expendable Trust Fund. **(Tax Impact: .03) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

There was no discussion on the article, so with a show of cards, the article was approved to be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 18: PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Selectman Hodgdon moved and Selectman Bryer seconded to see if the Town would vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to be deposited in the previously established Public Safety Complex Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of designing a Public Safety Complex. **(Tax impact \$0.04) (Majority**

**vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0)
(Recommended by the Budget Committee 7/8)**

Mr. Chase commented that there was always discussion at the Budget Committee meetings about where this complex was to be located, what was actually needed, and whether the Selectmen had done anything about organizing a study committee. Selectman Bryer responded that study committees had been proposed but that the public had voted them down. Police Chief Drolet then spoke to the article, stating that their plan was to bring in a firm to do a proposal of what would be the best design, location, etc. for the complex.

Mr. Strobel stated that he was the Chairman of the CIP Committee, adding that this Complex Capital Reserve Fund was included in the plan.

There was no further discussion on the article, so with a show of cards, the article was approved to be placed on the ballot as written.

Assistant Moderator Young turned the meeting back to Moderator Kreider at this point.

Article 19: NORTHWOOD NARROWS FIRE STATION EXPANSION

Selectman Hodgdon moved and Selectman Bryer seconded to see if the Town would vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000)** for the Northwood Narrows Fire Station Expansion. **(Tax impact: \$0.44) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12/1)**

The Moderator asked to have Fire Chief Nick Bassett speak on this article. Handouts had been given to residents.

The Chief described the current situation, explaining that there were both full and part-time, day and night shift personnel at the Ridge Station. He expressed the danger of pulling into and out of the station. He further commented that the Narrows Station has the space. There are no showers at the Ridge Station. With the cancer worries, it is important to have the capability for showers. The current bathrooms are not efficient or practical. The original plan that had been received would have cost around \$350,000, but it had been altered to include just the bare needs, bringing the price to the \$200,000 requested.

Ellen Schriber asked if the Narrows Station had enough room to expand into the Safety Complex discussed earlier. The Chief stated that because of the length of the Town, it was necessary to maintain two stations, and that there was not enough room for the complete Safety Complex. The Ridge Station would still be manned even with expansion. Linda Smith stated her support of the article, but asked if there were several proposals received and would the \$200,000 be sufficient. The Chief responded that it would. Suzanne Martin spoke to the condition of the Ridge Station and asked if a sprinkler system was included in the new expansion. She also stated her concerns about the danger of pulling out in traffic. The Chief responded that there was an exhaust system included in the operating budget. She then asked if they went over budget, was there a contingency plan in place. The Chief replied that the sprinkler system was included. Ms. Dole spoke in favor of the article, but noted her disappointment in the

lack of explanation given to the Budget Committee, and that she would want things given to the public to show what is going to be included in this article. The Chief stated that there was an open house scheduled for the first weekend in March to present it to the public.

Michael Moore asked if the article was approved and the money appropriated, how long before construction would begin, to which the Chief responded that an RFP would be sent out. The recommendations from the RFP returns would be given to the Board of Selectmen. He anticipated they would begin around early Spring.

There was no further discussion on the article, so with a show of cards, the article was approved to be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 20: BACKSTOP FOR BASEBALL DIAMOND

Selectman Hodgdon moved and Selectman Bryer seconded to see if the Town would vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **thirteen thousand, five hundred dollars (\$13,500)** to install the backstop and dugout fences at the new baseball diamond. **(Tax impact \$0.03) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12/1)**

There was no discussion on the article, so with a show of cards, the article was approved to be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 21: Change Board of Selectmen to 5 Members

Ms. Rule moved and Mr. Chase seconded to see if the Town would vote in favor of increasing the Board of Selectmen to 5 members per RSA 41:8-b. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Petition Warrant Article)**

The Moderator asked if the originator of the petition was in attendance and wanted to speak to the article, but there was no representative in attendance. Mr. Strobel did speak, saying that Northwood and Strafford were the only two towns in the area who currently had 3-member boards, that Epsom, Deerfield, Pittsfield and Nottingham each had 5. He went on to say that Northwood has more services and businesses than any surrounding towns. He also stated it would reduce the work required of each of the members with 5. Chief Bassett corrected, stating that Epsom only has 3 as well. Ms. Dole, Sandy Priolo and Linda Smith spoke in opposition to the article. Ms. Smith then **Moved, and Selectman Hodgdon seconded, to amend the article to read “Are you in favor of increasing the Board of Selectmen to five members?”** which is how the RSA is written.

Mr. Strobel asked if the Selectmen could change the form of government to a Town Manager situation, or did it have to come before Town Meeting. Attorney Whitley responded that it had to have Town Meeting approval.

With no further comments regarding the amendment, by a show of cards, the amendment was approved.

Mr. Moore then stated he was in favor of the amendment, but he didn't feel it was right to have the 40+ in attendance make this decision. Ms. Dole asked if the Board would be required to make this change if the article passed, to which Attorney Whitley replied, yes the new positions would go on the ballot next year (2019) adding the positions to make it a 5-member board. Each member of the current Board commented their opposition to the article. Mr. McGuigan asked how many candidates were on the present ballot for the one position, and was advised there were 4 candidates for the one open position.

There was no further discussion, so with a show of cards, the amended article was accepted to be placed on the ballot by a vote of 23 in favor, 12 opposed.

Mr. Strobel then asked if the audience had the power to not put a petitioned article on the warrant? The Moderator replied that they did not have that power, but they could continue to change the wording until it did get accepted to be placed on the ballot.

Article 22: OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Vaillancourt then spoke to the fact that he appreciated having the Moderator read each article as it was presented, making it easier to understand. He also stated that he thought the Moderator should use a Town computer next year, so amendments could be made on the screen as they were made. He then commented on the size of the room being too large for such a small group and that next year we should hold it in a smaller room for the acoustics issue. He also expressed his appreciation of the Attorney's help.

With no further business to come before the group, on motion made and seconded, it was voted to end the meeting at 11:16 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy C. Pease, Town Clerk/Tax Collector