

TOWN OF RYE – BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, November 11, 2019
6:30 p.m. – Rye Town Hall

Present: Chair Phil Winslow, Vice-Chair Keriann Roman, Selectmen Bill Epperson

Others Present: Town Administrator Becky Bergeron

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Winslow called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Winslow recognized all Veterans in attendance.

Chair Winslow announced that there will be a 2020 census. He encouraged everyone to participate. He explained that the data that is collected in the census is the basis for federal money being distributed.

Chair Winslow presented the Rye Reflections magazine to show the article on the Goss Farm Open House and Farmers Market. He thanked Lee Arthur for submitting the article.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – (at the beginning of the meeting, for any comment by any Rye resident on any topic. Requested time limit, up to 5 minutes each person.)

Steven Borne for the Rye Civic League: The Rye Civic League will be observing its 10th anniversary at the annual meeting on Monday, November 18th at 7:00 PM at the Rye Public Library. They will be having a cookie contest. Mr. Borne stated that it would be nice if an announcement could be put in the Rye Town Newsletter about this event. On November 11th, the Civic League will be hosting a chair's meeting. The idea is to get all the chairs of the commissions, committees and boards together to talk about current events over coffee. The Civic League is one of the sponsors of the Presidential Primary Tavern on January 26th, 4:00 – 6:00 at the Atlantic Grill. The idea is to create a place where people feel comfortable talking about politics. The Rye Civic League will be hosting the Budget and Warrant Analysis on February 6th.

Mr. Borne reported that he is still having problems with the Town website.

Steven Borne, 431 Wallis Road, stated that there is an antenna across the road from his house on a power pole. Peter Rowell and Dennis McCarthy do not know what it is. The people that worked on the pole do not know what it is. Mr. Borne stated that he would like to find out what it is there for.

Chair Winslow asked Mr. Borne to take a picture of it and send it to Town Administrator Bergeron.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – (to be discussed at the meeting only if pulled off the consent agenda by one of the three Selectmen.)

- A.** Investment Policy – Town Treasurer Jane Ireland has made the required yearly review of the Town's Investment Policy and finds that no modifications are necessary.
- B.** Letter rec'd from Sam Borne – re: Single use plastics
- C.** Event Permit Application: Gosport Chowder Club for Huff'n for Stuff'n – Turkey Trot (Fun Run/Walk) Thursday, 11/28/19, 8:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. – Fundraiser for Food Pantry and Community Outreach
- D.** Letter rec'd from Dana Truslow re: Her resignation from the Rye Energy Committee

Chair Winslow removed items A and B off the agenda for discussion.

- A.** Investment Policy – Town Treasurer Jane Ireland has made the required yearly review of the Town's Investment Policy and finds that no modifications are necessary.

Chair Winslow asked Town Administrator Bergeron to talk to the New Hampshire Municipal Association to ask if the Town should have a professional review of the Investment Policy, once every ten years, to give them some guidance and advice.

- B.** Letter rec'd from Sam Borne – re: Single use plastics

Chair Winslow reported that he talked to the Abenaki Country Club. They said that they have gone to all paper and are not using any plastic at all. He feels that getting retail organizations to do this voluntarily would be the way to go. Mandating this and having to police it, is not the Rye way. He recommended that Mr. Borne visit five to ten of the establishments to talk to them; get their consensus about this idea, their concerns and what they feel it would cost. That would be a great help. At that time, he should come back to the Board with recommendations.

Vice-Chair Roman stated that she had asked the Town Recycling Committee to look into this and provide the Board with some recommendations. She asked Town Administrator Bergeron to reach out to them again regarding this subject. She added that she would like to get their thoughts on voluntary compliance, how the Town could encourage that and what they recommend doing after that. She would like to have a response from the Recycling Committee for the first meeting in December.

- E.** Chair Winslow stated that the Board would like to thank Dana Truslow for her service on the Rye Energy Committee.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the Consent Agenda Items as presented. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. PUBLIC HEARING: Municipal Aid

The purpose of the hearing is to consider acceptance and expenditure of unrestricted unanticipated revenue to the Town of Rye in the amount of twenty-two thousand nine hundred seventy-five dollars and thirty-eight cents (\$22,975.38) as Municipal Aid from the State of New Hampshire.

Chair Winslow explained the State of New Hampshire has given the Town of Rye \$22,975.38 as municipal aid. The only restriction is that the Town holds a public hearing to accept the funds. The distribution of the funds was based on the number of students in Rye that are eligible for free or reduced rate lunches. He reported that Rye received \$22,000; Greenland \$18,000; North Hampton \$28,000; Portsmouth \$102,000 and Seabrook \$154,000.

Chair Winslow stated that there needs to be discussion to decide on accepting the money to reduce taxes or accepting the money to pay for some current projects.

Chair Winslow opened the Public Hearing at 6:54 PM.

B. Rye Town Center Committee – Request for consideration for survey and plan funding

- **The Rye Town Center Committee:**
 - **Request for funding to hire CMA Engineering for planning services to get to the warrant article. CMA will get the project initiated, spot checking for fatal flaws, prepare conceptual designs \$8,500; Colored rendering presentation plan \$1,200; Photo simulation plan \$2,000 Total: \$ 11,700.**

Karen Stewart, Rye Town Center Committee Chair and Phil Corbett, Project Manager from CMA Engineering, presented.

The Rye Town Center Committee was formed for the purposes of evaluating the Plan New Hampshire recommendations from the charrette and to create a comprehensive plan for the Rye Town Center. The Committee's first focus was on safety for all modes of travel, especially pedestrians and bicyclists, in addition to vehicles. This entailed following up on the Plan New Hampshire recommendation of providing a dedicated sidewalk from the Junior High School to the Town Hall, along with dedicated bike lanes on both sides of the road. This has strong community support as demonstrated through the charrette.

As a result of having Rockingham Planning Commission attend a meeting, the Committee was made aware of the Federal Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Grant for streetscapes and sidewalk projects. This grant covers 80% with a 20% local match. In order to be able to move forward to evaluate the feasibility of the plan, and also to put the Town in good standing in the grant application process, it is important to have the right-of-ways researched, a survey and conceptual designs that would lead to construction costs. The idea is to present the plan to the voters in March. There is a greater chance of approval of the TAP application having the consent of the voters, with the approval for the 20% matching funds. A letter of intent would be sent by the Town in June. There will be an application workshop during the summer with the application due in September. There is a minimum project size of \$400,000 with a maximum of \$1,000,000. Because it is federal funding, there are a lot of requirements that must be met for permitting.

CMA Engineering will be helping the Town get the information together for the application for the TAP Grant. The phases are to define the concept; refine the concept; develop a cost estimate; and create conceptual presentations.

Mae Bradshaw, Member of Rye Town Center Committee, gave a presentation and summary of Town of Stratham's TAP application and vision from the Town of Rye's Master Plan.

Rye's Master Plan statement:

- Our children will increasingly walk or ride their bikes safely to school.
- The Town has undertaken past and ongoing improvements, to local and state roads, to accommodate more pedestrian and bicycle traffic.
- The Town should itemize pedestrian and bicycle needs and safety issues.
- The Town should be part of the New Hampshire state-wide bicycle and pedestrian plan.
- The Town should be pursuing opinions for sidewalks to connect school, library and safety building.
- Sustain semi-rural roads with traffic calming and narrowing travel lines.

These are the things that the Town Center Committee has been working on. These are the things that CMA would help with; however, there is still the issue of establishing the boundary lines.

Member Bradshaw, on behalf of the Rye Town Center Committee, requested funding to hire a surveyor to research the deeds and conduct a survey of the Rye Town Center. The cost is estimated to be between \$6,000 and \$10,000.

Questions from a member of the public:

Q: What happens if the Town does not accept the funds?

A: The Town would not get the funds. The Town either accepts the funds to offset the tax rate, or accept and expend on a project.

Q: How is that decision made, by the Board of Selectmen or the voting public?

A: This would be a Selectmen's decision. The decision has to be made this year. It cannot wait until Town Meeting.

Comment from a member of the public: The charrette was made with private money because the article for the charrette was voted down. It would be appropriate that if the Town wants to provide these funds for the purpose of the Town Center Committee's findings, for it to be a warrant article submitted to the voters. If this money has to be spent in 2019, it could be used to pay down a debt. Then a warrant article could ask for the money needed for the Town Center Committee's recommendation. The will of the majority is an important consideration.

Member Bradshaw; The TAP grant funding cycle is bi-annual. Missing that cycle will place the Town's application process out three years. The application is due in the spring, with the funding awarded in the fall.

Question from a member of the public:

Q. How would the Town proceed with the Town Center Plan, if the municipal aid money was not available?

A. There would have to be a warrant article to ask for the \$22,000 to do the research and survey in order to see if the plan was feasible. This could preclude any application process for federal money for this funding cycle. Having the Town voters' backing through the Master Plan, the charrette, already having the survey and a vote to approve money for the planning stage of the project, are all strong

factors in the award process. The 2018 TAP funding cycle had 38 applicants for \$22.6 million. The award was \$5.7 million.

Vice-Chair Roman stated that she hears the concern and often advocates the importance of issues going to the voters. On this issue, however, the TAP funding could save the Town \$400,000. If the Town waits three years the cost of the project will have increased. Also, the municipal aid money came to the Town because of the schools. Using the money to provide safety for the children seems to be a more appropriate use of the money than just putting it towards the tax rate.

John Loftus, Member of the Rye Town Center Committee, suggested that the total town center project will come in closer to the \$800,000 mark, rather than \$400,000. It would be hard to beat that kind of investment saving \$.20 on a dollar. Applying \$22,000 to the tax rate would be negligible in looking to the upside of what you could get, especially as the total cost increase.

Chair Winslow stated that the voters will have the final decision. The Town is up against a timeline. By getting advance commitment on the part of the Town, will substantially push the Town ahead on the application process.

Public Comment: There is a better understanding of the process now; however, the community is putting the cart before the horse, until the Town figures out what is happening with the rest of the entities in the community, such as the TD Bank building and the Parsonage. Until that is determined, it is very difficult to do a complete and appropriate plan of how the center of Rye is going to be developed.

Cathleen Hodson, 616 Central Road, spoke in support of the plan.

Nina Parrott, Member of the Rye Town Center Committee, stated she agrees with having all of the buildings analyzed in order to determine the usage. However, there will not be any changes to the Junior High and the Library in terms of needing a sidewalk.

Karen Stewart, Rye Town Center Committee Chair, stated that at the community level, the Committee will be looking at all of the buildings, the intersections and connectivity. This is just where the Committee felt was the best place to start because it will have the majority of the voters' support.

John Loftus, Member of the Rye Town Center Committee, noted the whole genesis of this project was the safety of the children. He asked how they could put a price on that.

Vice-Chair Roman asked Committee Member Azzi his thoughts on what is being proposed.

Victor Azzi, Member of the Rye Town Center Committee, stated there are apparent and obvious obstructions that are in the way of getting a sidewalk from the Rye Public Library to the Rye Junior High. There are fences, a stonewall and well-established trees in front of three longtime existing residential properties. If those properties have property lines up to Washington Road, then there is no way to essentially get a sidewalk, let alone a sidewalk and a grass strip, along Washington Road that is compatible to what is in front of the safety building and the library. This is an existing condition that has to be resolved. A small amount of money is needed to resolve that. If the property lines are not where the issues could be resolved successfully, it may render everything else as not important and moot. The Committee does not want to commit to doing a survey for the whole program, which is from the intersection of Central and Washington to the intersection of Wallis and Washington. If the first hurdles are resolved, then the Town can commit to doing the survey for the whole program.

Chair Winslow closed the public hearing at 7:36 PM

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept and expend, under the provisions of RSA 31- 95 B:2-4, the \$22,975.38 Municipal Aid Funds for the purpose as proposed by the Rye Town Center Committee; to sign the agreement in the amount of \$11,700 with CMA for services as outlined and to hire a surveyor. Seconded by Keriann Roman. All in Favor.

C. Rye Telecommunications Infrastructure Committee Update 15 Minutes

Howard Kalet, chairman of the Rye Telecommunications Infrastructure Committee, presented an update to the Board of Selectmen. He explained that the Committee was charged to find locations in town to provide better coverage of telecommunications with minimum impact on the citizens.

He presented the Board with the 2019 Wireless Coverage Study, which predicted existing low-band coverage. He went on to review the study and potential locations studied; Abenagui Golf Course, Recreation area and 511 Sagamore Road.

The Committee is working with Kim Reed, Attorney Donovan and David Maxson to update the zoning to include the one additional location on Recreation Road. They are also revising some of the language in order to make it easier for a telecommunications company to put in an intent. The simpler and more complete process that is done on the zoning, the easier it will be and the less money it will cost. At this time, they are planning to only add the location at the Recreation Area, because Lang's Corner is already included in the Zoning Overlay District. The Committee is working diligently on this change in order to proceed with a warrant article to make the zoning changes. The plan is to have David Maxson and Attorney Donovan review the changes this week. After that time, it will go to the Planning Board for the first Public Hearing. If there are any changes by the Planning Board, a second public hearing will be held in January.

D. Nancy Barba, Barba & Wheelock – Town Hall Renovation Update

Chair Winslow explained that Nancy Barba was hired to do an analysis of the Town Hall and come back with recommendations to make it ADA compliant and also to make sufficient office space for Town employees. Additionally, Ms. Barba was asked how many more square feet would be needed outside the building to house offices, if the Town was to use the upstairs of the Town Hall as a meeting space,

Ms. Barba explained that this review is to give a follow-up of what has been done and to bring the Board up-to-date on where things stand with programing. The next phase is to actually draw out where things will fit in the building.

As some history of the process, Ms. Barba stated that in late August and September she came in and interviewed some of the staff and the department groups. This was to understand the program needs. She also reviewed the other reports that had been done on Town Hall space needs. The report that seem to showcase the most relevant information regarding space needs, was the report that was done by John Loftus. Mr. Loftus took each department's current and proposed furnishing and laid them out in how they would function best. The adjusted square footage is based on layout. When working with something that is already existing, it is important to acknowledge the constraints of that reality that is being dealt with, which gives a more frugal approach to the plan.

Ms. Barba presented the space needs analysis, which goes through room by room and space by space. It looks at what the existing area is and what the proposed is. She explained that the areas in yellow, are current usable space

for people that are working (net square footage). The exception is the Town Planner's office, which is in red. It is not allowed to be used in the location that it is currently located. It is illegal because it is located in an egress. It is being included in the needed net calculation but it cannot be used as usable net space. All of the legal net area calculations that the Town Hall has is 4,115 square feet, which includes the red area that cannot be used moving forward, which is 158 square feet.

She continued that when interviewing the staff and looking at the actual needs, some of the proposed areas decrease in size and some increase. The offices on the second floor are all oversized. The offices on the bottom floor are all undersized or illegal. The Town Hall does not have a good staff breakroom. There are not enough meeting rooms. The meeting room that is currently used is 406 square feet, which includes the Selectmen's desk and a 21sf closet. For 75 occupants, 962sf is needed. Adding a desk that seats 12 people with space to move around, that is handicap accessible, would be an additional 450sf. The needed square footage is almost triple the current square footage. The proposed area goes from the current net area of 4,115 to 5,705 in net square footage. The next step is to convert it to gross square footage. The ratio from net to gross in the existing building is 62%. So, all of the usable space or net, is 62% of the gross. This seems to be too tight for appropriate traffic flow and circulation. A good ratio should be 55%. The current gross square footage is 6,585, in order to give better efficiency, it should be 10,789 square feet. The addition would need to be between 2,100 and 2,700 square feet on two floors (4,200 to 5,400).

Ms. Barba discussed the idea of bringing the voting into the Town Hall. She presented a diagram of the current Town Hall upstairs meeting room, with a shaded area that represents the gym at the elementary school. The area at the elementary school is 4,320. The area in the upstairs room in the Town Hall is 1,616 (not using the stage). She suggested that the upstairs could be used for other activities relating to recreation and other social functions. Using the whole building for offices, without additional meeting space, the additional area needed would be 4,600 to 5,200 square feet.

The next step is to find a solution as to where to get the additional square footage, whether it be an addition or using another available building. If it is the TD Bank building, the trolley barn or the Parsonage; how many square feet is available (or could be added) and at what cost? What are the options?

The Board agreed to schedule a work session to analyze the proposed space needs as presented.

Steven Borne, 431 Wallis Road, stated that the analysis does not include utilizing space in the Safety Building. He will not support any kind of analysis that does not take that into consideration.

Chair Winslow assured Mr. Borne that the Safety Building will be considered.

Mr. Borne suggested that it may work out better to create a meeting room in another building, such as the Library or the Public Safety Building, eliminating the need for the current court room.

Burt Dibble, 106 Harbor Road, stated that his perception is that this should be a one-time endeavor in the Town of Rye (certainly in our life time). He is opposed to thinking about doing the barebones. He is in favor of thinking about things like providing a meeting room, like other towns, that will house the Select Board in a meeting room that is desirable to be in. The Town needs to be thinking creatively, with a vision of the future, of how Rye is going to look five, ten or fifteen years from now, not to just get through this process with the least public opposition.

Public Comment: The Town Hall should be preserved and given to the Heritage Commission for stewardship. The Town should buy the TD Building and either add on to it or build a new Town Hall office building on that site. It would house everything that the Town needs at one location. Having multiple buildings will create the need of

additional maintenance and additional costs. The Town deserves a beautiful building in a great location. The Town should trade the Parsonage to Dan Philbrick for residential use. Mr. Philbrick would do a great job. This all would fit into the Master Plan.

Chair Winslow stressed the importance of getting as many options on the table as possible.

Victor Azzi, 1100 Ocean Road, stated that the Town needs a planning solution before it works out the details of how many square feet in an architectural feasibility design. This is a planning study that is for something that needs to be done for the Rye Town Center. The Rye Town Center Committee should be working on this.

Cathleen Hodson, 616 Central Road stated the most important thing is maintaining the historic character of the Town. If the Town Hall building is abandoned, it will not survive.

Chair Winslow stated that this is just the beginning. There is a lot of data to take a look at. Also, there needs to be a review of the Rye Town Center Committee's charge. There have been six options discussed this evening. He suggested turning over these options to the Committee for their review, as to how they could be intergraded into the Town Center Plan.

Motion by Keriann Roman to amend the charge to include the language "all other potentially available buildings in the Town Center". Seconded by Phil Winslow. All in Favor.

E. Senator Tom Sherman, Senate Update

Senator Sherman met with the Board of Selectmen to update them on what he has been working on and to see what the Town has been working on, in order to represent the Town on any specific issues.

Senator Sherman presented the Board with a summary of the work that he has done to-date as the Town's State Senator, which includes but is not limited to:

- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Water Contamination
- Funding for the Portsmouth State Pier of \$3.5 million
- The State portion of the Rye Harbor Dredging is in the budget

Regional Issues:

- There are nine eagle scouts in the District
- The Rail Trail Project

Commission and Committee Work:

- Senator Sherman is Vice-Chair of New Hampshire Drinking Water and Ground Water Trust Fund Advisory Commission.

This is the trust fund that came from the MTBE settlement. Senator Morse is the chair and will likely be the prime sponsor. Senator Sherman will be a co-sponsor on a bill that sets up a new funding mechanism, if the State is successful in their lawsuit. The State-wide liability is probably well over a billion dollars. Senator Morse leveraged the funds from the MTBE settlement. There was \$287 million that came in from Exxon. The trust fund is the last funding mechanism for project applications. They do not accept applications above a certain percentage of the project and there has to be multiple sources of funding. Other state and federal programs have to be tapped

out and then in order to “close the deal” the NH Drinking Water and Ground Water Trust will step in. This is almost the same model as LCHIP.

Senator Sherman is currently on twelve committees and commissions. Some of the Bills that he is working on for next session include:

- A panel of pharmaceutical bills
 - The ones that Senator Sherman is sponsoring have to do with transparency, pricing and holding the pharmaceuticals accountable
- Health and Human Services
- Rooms and Meals

Some of the active issues that are ongoing in Rye that Senator Sherman is involved in include:

- The intersection of Route 1A and Perkins Road
 - He got the Commissioner of DOT to do a site visit
- RV parking
- Culvert drainage

The Board talked to Senator Sherman about the TAP Grant for the Town Center Project. DOT has funds available to possibly help with the 20% match.

Senator Sherman reminded the Board of additional funding available for transportation. There is the \$5.00 surcharge on registrations, which is directed towards transportation programs. Other towns have used that quite successfully. There needs to be a warrant article voted on at Town Meeting. It doesn't have to be a permanent fee. It could be just targeted for one project.

He continued that there was discussion regarding the bascule bridge between Rye and New Castle. Changing the bridge design would save the State \$2 million. There are two bascule bridges in the State; Hampton and New Castle/Rye. Looking at height, boat traffic, and costs, it makes a lot of sense to have the bascule bridge in Hampton. The State has a commitment to preserve one bascule bridge. If Hampton were to go with a fixed bridge, the New Castle/Rye bridge would be bascule. There has been discussion of preserving one of these bascule bridges as a museum, in order to show what a bascule bridge was like and the active bridges could then be fixed. The final decision for Hampton is supposed to be happening within the next few months. Once that decision is made, the decision will be made on New Castle. A lot of people are looking at it being a fixed bridge. A lot of fishermen are concerned about locking in Little Harbor, which a fixed bridge will do.

Chair Winslow pointed out that one of the most serious issues for Rye is the water treatment plant. It is on the CIP at \$7.5 million; however, if it doesn't happen within the next five years, it will be closer to \$10 million. Funding for the plant is critical.

Senator Sherman stated that hopefully the funding will come from the settlement, but that cannot be counted on.

There was discussion about a bill to allow the Towns to charge a \$2.00 a night fee on over-night rentals. It was tabled in the Senate and is being re-introduced. There is a meeting with the chamber next week to look at the final version of the bill. It is still at “up to \$2.00” and is totally up to the individual towns. If it is not supported, there is discussion of possibly doing it as a trial in certain towns. The towns that are highlighted are Portsmouth, Hampton and Lebanon. If Rye is interested, Senator Sherman could add them to the list.

F. Mae Bradshaw, Historic District Commission requests permission to submit a letter of intent to CLG for a grant to find a professional to draft design standards for the Historic District

Historic District Commission Chair Mae Bradshaw explained the purpose of the letter of intent and the grant.
The Board had no objections to the letter of intent.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE - None

VII. NEW BUSINESS - None

VIII. OLD BUSINESS - None

IX. SELECTMEN'S 2020 BUDGET WORK SESSION

• **Capital Reserves:**

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| ○ Grove Road Land Fill | \$5,000 |
| ○ Revaluation | \$30,000 |
| ○ Ambulance and Fire Equipment | |
| ▪ Current Balance approx. \$207,000 | \$100,000 |
| ○ Highway Equipment | \$100,000 |

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve Capital Reserves as amended. Seconded by Keriann Roman. All in Favor.

• **Capital Outlay:**

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|-----------|
| ○ Highway | | \$275,000 |
| ▪ Perkins Road Culvert Replacement | \$150,000 | |
| ▪ Second Compactor at Transfer Center | 50,000 | |
| ▪ Town-wide Paving Analysis | 30,000 | |
| ▪ Replace Storm Damage Sidewalks on Ocean Blvd. | 20,000 | |
| ▪ Wet Weather screening and Assets Management | 25,000 | |
| | Total: | \$125,000 |

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve \$125,000 as amended. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| ○ Fire | | \$ 98,000 |
| ▪ SCBA | 28,000 | |
| ▪ Cardiac Monitor Replacement | 40,000 | |
| ▪ RTV | 20,000 | |
| | Total: | \$ 68,000 |

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve \$68,000 as amended. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------|
| ○ Police | | \$ 13,577 |
| ▪ Two Portable Radios | 6,177 | |
| ▪ One Taser | 1,400 | |
| ▪ Digital Speed Sign | 6,000 | |
| | Total: | \$ 13,577 |

Motion by Bill Epperson to approve \$13,577 as presented. Seconded by Phil Winslow. All in Favor.

- Town-Wide Computers

Total: \$ 31,750

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve \$31,750 as presented. Seconded by Keriann Roman. All in Favor.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Vice-Chair Roman noted a discrepancy in the Highway Capital Reserve request. The Board did not vote on \$50,000 for the traffic engineer study on Perkins Road.

Motion by Keriann Roman to approve \$175,000 as amended. Seconded by Phil Winslow. All in Favor.

ADJOURMENT

Motion by Bill Epperson to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. Seconded by Keriann Roman. All in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger

11-11-19 Consent Item B

Sam Borne
431 Wallis Road
Rye NH 03870

October 25 2019

Selectmen Winslow
10 Central Rd,
Rye, NH 03870

Selectmen Winslow



I am fifteen years old and I have lived in Rye my whole life. Living in Rye I love spending time in our town's parks, beaches, and forests. Wherever you go in our town I can almost guarantee that you will see single-use plastics. This plastic is not only destroying our town's natural beauty, but it is also ending up inside of us. It is poisoning us from the inside.

Once a plastic straw left on the ground it is broken down into incredibly small pieces called microplastics. These plastics nearly always end up downstream and in our oceans. From here fish and other animals living in the oceans eat plastics mistaking them as food. These plastics then move up the food chain as they are eaten by bigger and bigger animals. Then eventually they are eaten by us humans.

In a study by the Medical University of Vienna in October 2018 found "tiny shreds of [plastic] in the digestive systems of people from eight different countries". Plastic from straws and other single-use plastics has made it down the food chain and it has ended up in us. The things that were designed to be thrown away, now have an uncanny knack ending up back with us.

In February 2019, the Center for International Environmental Law found that "health problems associated with plastics" have led to "numerous forms of cancers, diabetes, several organ malfunctions" and "birth defects". This shows that plastics from the ocean move up the food chain ending up in our bloodstream and end up causing, horrific diseases. I was hoping since you were an elected leader you would understand the gravity of this situation.

Our neighboring city Portsmouth has recently passed an ordinance banning single-use plastics. I am asking that you pass the same ordinance as Portsmouth, in the form of a warrant article. In adopting the ordinance I ask that you would remove the words, "on city property". This would make the ban town-wide for Rye, I also ask that you adopt enforcement of \$25 per violation, with a maximum per month of \$300. The same fine as NH House Bill 558 which would ban all single-use plastic straws.

Rye though has a lot fewer restaurants and stores then Portsmouth the ban would take a lot less enforcement. The cost of the extra police hours would easily add up to become an overall positive benefit. According to a National Cancer Institute study in 2019, the large majority of "drugs and

biologics used to treat cancer cost over \$10,000 a month". That cost could easily force someone to move out of Rye, or simply not move to Rye in the first place. This would keep us from enriching our community with new young families, something Rye needs now more than ever.

Along with helping new families move into Rye it would also help local fishermen. When a fish mistakes a microplastic as food, the microplastic is consumed and it ends up in their stomach making the fish feel full all the time. This leads the fish to feeling as if they are full and do not need to eat leading to death by starvation. This shows that plastic released the enters the ocean from Rye's coast can lead to fishermen having a smaller catch. According to a study by the Marine Pollution Bulletin in May 2019, this process has lead to a "1-5% decline" in the amount of fish in our oceans. That study also found that if these trends continue they could cost the global economy up to "2.5 trillion dollars a year", a part of this lost money would be affecting Rye.

This shows that the amount of fish local fishermen are able to catch is directly related to the amounts of this microplastic in the oceans. So if warrant article were to be passed it could help stop the flow of plastics in the oceans and instead have more money into the bank accounts of fishermen from Rye Harbor.

A study in 2017 by the World Economic Forum that found "degradation of the natural environment was having a serious effect on the tourism sector". This study shows that the degradation of the environment by plastics can seriously impact tourism. Tourism which is a major part of Rye's economy.

I would finally like to mention the case of San Jose, California which implemented a "Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance in 2012". This law created a ban on single-use plastic and a 10-cent fee for paper bags. This lead to "dramatic decreases in bag litter" in the city's creeks and waterways. San Jose California found that there was a "reduction in bag litter of approximately 89 percent"

Because of all of these disturbing facts about the impacts of plastic, I ask you to work to pass a plastic bag ban. So Rye can join a group of over 400 states, cities and towns that have banned single use plastic bags.

This is why I am asking you to take this cause up and try to ban single-use plastics in Rye. I know what your thinking, what could one town do? Yet this is so much more than one small town. This is about making a statement about what we Rye believe in.

I ask you for if no other reason alone then, we have a duty to leave the earth a better place than we found it.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,



Sam Borne