

Town of Rye
Budget Committee Meeting
January 11, 2018
Revision D

Present: Chair Grote, Clerk Peter Crawford, Vice Chair Peggy Balboni, Kevin Brandon, Randy Crapo, Mae Bradshaw, Phil Winslow, Ralph Hickson, Doug Abrams, Ray Jarvis and Alternate Shawn Crapo for the Rye Beach Village District. Note: Randy Crapo and Ray Jarvis arrived late. The times of their arrivals are indicated in these minutes.

Chair Grote called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Grote: We have something we need to tidy up that we did not get to. Mr. Crawford has asked to make a motion regarding last night's meeting and officially request what he asked for regarding the insurance (sic).

Kevin Brandon explains the "bridge" that would come from numbers that were used in the past to the current numbers that Ms. Ransom has come up with. In order to make a "bridge" we need clarification from Mr. Katkin and Ms. Ransom.

Randy Crapo arrived just prior to Mr. Crawford making his motion.

Peter Crawford: I move that the Budget Committee request, pursuant to RSA 32:16, II that the officials of the SAU 50 office furnish the following pertinent information as soon as possible, but no later than February 5, 2018:

"An explanation of the increase in line item 10.2900.232.00.00, NH retirement teachers, from \$688,095 in the 2017/2018 budget to \$763,559 in the 2018/2019 budget (an increase of \$75,464). The committee notes that the NH retirement rate was constant for both years at 17.36% (7th page of Tab 7 of the budget book), and that the increase represents the increase that would correspond with an increase in salaries of \$434,700 (\$75,464 divided by .1736). In reviewing tab 6 of the budget book (1st page and 2nd fold out page), it appears that the teacher salaries are up \$120,965 from 2017/2018 to 2018/2019 (\$4,029,478 to \$4,150,443) and the principals' and special education director's salaries as well as the two IST positions are up \$12,075 (from \$421,020 to \$433,095). The total of \$133,040 is far less than the \$434,700 that would be required to explain the increase in the Teacher Retirement line item."

Shawn Crapo: Can I make a suggestion that we end that right after you get to the \$75,000, because after that it goes into your mathematical calculations which none of us have corroborated which may or may

not be right. I think that part of the answer could be correlated if you get your numbers and we get the rest of the numbers from them.

Kevin Brandon: I agree with that because the truth is everything that follows that is essentially implicit in that because you have a number that you are trying to bridge into the current budget number. In order to create that you have to go back with the help of Mr. Katkin. One additional comment I would make is that I don't know if we can say no later than a certain date. I would say on or about February 5th. I think this goes to a point that Jaci Grote made last night that we need to coordinate our questions carefully.

Kevin Brandon explains the new role Ms. Ransom has and how she will be dealing with a variety of questions so we need to be sure we structure in a way she can deal with easily as well as Mr. Katkin, who is retiring in June.

Peter Crawford: I am going to amend my motion to remove the portion after \$75,464 divided by .1736. With regard to the timeline I would like to keep it February 5 because the Deliberative Session is February 7.

Mae suggested that the date be changed to on or before the Deliberative Session. Jaci pointed out that the Deliberative Session could be delayed to the tenth. Kevin agreed to Mae's change.

Kevin Brandon: What is the precedent we are setting? We have already moved the budget. The Budget Committee has already recommended the operating budget. The numbers in the operating budget that the public will be looking at are not changing.

Peggy Balboni: It has been my understanding that the Budget Committee would direct questions to the school board representative. (Talking to Kevin Brandon) Is that your understanding?

Kevin Brandon: I have no problem directing the questions.

Peter Crawford: I think that's a good idea going forward but I would still like to make the motion because I got an email from Sal Petralia basically saying that under the RSA's they don't have to do anything for an individual Budget Committee member. The Budget Committee has to speak through a majority action of the body so that is what I am trying to get us to do.

Kevin Brandon: I agree with Sal's prospective. He has to protect his scarce time and resources. He is getting a blizzard of questions from a bunch of different angles. Members of the public have sent questions directly to Ms. Ransom and they have to Mr. Katkin in the past. It is no way to run an asylum, okay. I agree with your suggestion Peggy. Thank you for that. That is a perfectly fine way and it's worded the way as marked up, then I will get back and share that with Sal and Amy.

Shawn Crapo: We do have that in our responsibilities under the RSA relating to our duties. Roman numeral two is to confer with the governing bodies or bodies and officers or department heads and officials related to estimated costs, revenues anticipated, and services performed to the extent that is deemed by the Budget Committee. It shall be the duty of all such officers and persons to furnish information to the Budget Committee. I looked that up last night and the government center says that means a quorum can request that.

Chair Grote: I think that is what Peter was trying to do. But if we need to reword that. I am sorry what was the beginning of that?

Shawn Crapo: I am okay with that as amended now. Let's just take the math out.

Peggy Balboni: I would just like to make a precedent going forward that rather than having individuals going over to the SAU, I think we should go to Kevin.

Peter Crawford: I agree that going forward we should do that.

Mae Bradshaw: I just wanted to add one caveat. I was invited last night to pursue a matter. I am one person who will be making contact with them directly.

Chair Grote: About? Oh, yes I asked you to do that.

Mae Bradshaw: Yes you did.

Chair Grote: Yes we are going to talk about that. Okay, Peter made a motion and we amended the motion.

Peter Crawford: I make the motion as amended.

Mae seconds it.

All in favor.

Chair Grote: Okay great. Let's get to work. We have a whole lot of minutes to approve. I would like to start with December 13. Before we look at these, because we had a new person doing the minutes, I looked at the minutes first and then I asked Peter to look at the minutes to make sure there were no glaring errors. He took the time to do it and I appreciate that. So what we have is posted minutes from December 13th and then we have redline copies which is what Peter did to bring the minutes to a standard that we want to have as a committee. This shouldn't happen anymore because the person who is doing the minutes is going to have... She has been working from the video so if you have ever done it, it is not easy. She is going to have the handouts and that should make it much easier for her. Do we have any comments on the minutes from December 13th?

Peggy made a motion to approve the minutes.

Question: Can you tell us who was there?

Chair Grote: yes, Jaci, Ralph, Peter, Peggy, Amy, Phil, Sal, Ray Jarvis, Randy and Shawn.

Phil made a second.

All in favor except Mae Bradshaw as she was out sick and Doug Abrams who also abstained.

Chair Grote: Then the minutes from October 24th. Does anyone have any comments?

Motion to approve by Phil Winslow. Second by Mae.

All in Favor.

Unanimous.

Chair Grote: November 16th minutes for approval. Can we add the time of the adjournment on these minutes?

Peter Crawford: We can add a time, but I don't think it's really necessary. I will add the time.

A motion to approve the minutes and have Peter add the time was made by Peggy and was seconded by Shawn.

All in favor. Kevin Brandon, who was absent from the meeting, abstained.

Chair Grote: Last one is December 21st minutes.

Peggy made a motion to accept the minutes.

Second by Randy.

All in favor except abstentions from Mae, Phil, Doug and Kevin.

There was a discussion about quorum requirements and how it is determined that there are enough people to make a quorum regarding the minutes.

Chair Grote: Let's discuss the town department budget.

Chair Grote: Karen from the library is not here yet but she will be here so let's move on to other business until she arrives.

Chair Grote: Let's go to government buildings. The second page.

Cyndi Gillespie: There was a miscommunication between me and the Board of Selectmen. You voted on \$7,500 and what we need is another \$25,000 on that line. This is for the balance of painting this building and maintenance items.

Chair Grote: Let's clarify. We originally had 80 for the painting?

Cyndi Gillespie: We originally had 95 for the painting and we have 80 in the capital reserve so we will need an additional 15.

Chair Grote: So the \$7,500 was just to keep the lights on and the \$25,000 is for the painting and other maintenance to the building.

Randy Crapo question: \$90,000 for the painting. I know they will ask to repair the building where there is rough section.

Cyndi Gillespie: We actually have had someone look at the building to give us a ball park idea and we know we will have to repair some stuff. There is also scraping and lead abatement.

Mike Magnant: We received some estimates but we have no contractor in line until we have funding.

Randy Crapo asked a question about whether painting will be done if the building is going to be torn down.

Cyndi Gillespie: Obviously the painting will not be done if the building is going to be torn down. In the past nothing has been budgeted so when warrant articles go down in flames we are stuck.

Mike Magnant: The Selectmen are not going to paint the building if the warrant article passes to tear the building down.

Motion to approve \$46,260 by Peter
Second by Mae.
All in favor

Cyndi Gillespie: The next page goes along with the building. We asked for another \$19,000 for the Historic Structures study, which is in addition to the \$20,000 for the stone wall.

Mae: We did get L-Chip grant money to match.

Chair Grote: \$31,000.00 is the total.

Mae: We are required by L-Chip to have a professional architect who understands historic buildings do the study to determine the overall condition.

Cyndi Gillespie: The study is \$31,000 and we are putting in \$19,000.

Mike Magnant: We had an architect give us a ballpark cost and it came in at \$31,000. However, we'll do a competitive RFP.

Cyndi Gillespie: The other \$20,000 is for the retaining wall.

Doug: How much have we spent trying to figure out what to do with Town Hall?

Mae: To date we have spent \$365,000 for architects.

Motion to approve \$39,000 by Shawn.
Second by Mae.
All in favor.

Chair Grote: I recommend that we not vote on the first article. The second article we voted on previously and the Budget Committee vote was 6 to 1. The third article is new and we have not voted on this.

“To see if the town will appropriate the sum of \$250,000 for the purpose of replacing the remaining existing culvert under Red Mill Lane. Said sum to include engineering services for construction administration and inspecting of the project, and authorize the borrowing of \$250,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provision of the Municipal Finance Act (N.H. RSA Chapter 33 as amended) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes, to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof, and to take such actions or to pass any vote relative thereto, as may be necessary to effect the issuance, negotiation, sale and delivery of such bonds or notes as shall be in the best interest of the Town of Rye and further, to apply for, obtain, accept and expend Federal and State grants or other aid and any private donations that may be available towards this purpose and to comply with all laws applicable to said project. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (3/5 ballot vote required)”

Dennis McCarthy clarified the issue of the culvert on Red Mill Lane. \$250,000 is what the first one cost and the second will be exactly the same. This is driven by state and federal regulations. We were able to get them to approve a 16 foot wide opening.

Doug: Are there any grants available for this?

Dennis McCarthy: Not as they are now. Oddly enough, once they meet the definition of a bridge, which is anything wider than a ten foot span, they are eligible for state bridge funding.

Peter: When I looked at the first culvert in October, I saw that there was a new sidewalk as well. I thought that sidewalks were the responsibility of the precinct.

Dennis McCarthy: They are, but since we damaged the precinct's sidewalk when replacing the culvert we were responsible for restoring the sidewalk. We had to replace the sidewalk about 20-30 feet on either side of the culvert as well.

Motion to recommend by Mae.

Peggy seconded.

All in favor except Peter Crawford, who voted against.

Vote 9-1 (Ray Jarvis was not yet present).

Chair Grote: Let's talk about the Library. Thanks Ms. Oliver for coming early. I see the Selectmen have approved the lower number.

Karen Oliver, Library Trustee chair: the number that the Selectmen approved is based on our budget minus bringing 4 employees to parity based on the professional compensation study that we contracted for, and taking out the 1.5 percent pool for performance increases.

We contracted for the professional compensation study in preparation for doing some workshops as a board and implementing a formal written compensation policy. Employees are already reviewed once a year.

We will have policies and procedures in place for next year. We do not yet have policies in place beyond the 2 percent COLA.

Andy Richmond, Library Director: Everyone in the group has taken on additional responsibilities. We have some part-time people taking on additional hours to keep the library open.

Chair Grote: Do you think that the selectmen did not approve the budget because you did not have the documentation?

Phil Winslow explained how the selectmen had asked for a written salary plan prior to approving the budget, but did not receive one.

Karen Oliver said that they had hoped to have the documentation prior to presenting the budget. Selectman Jenness had said that this might be the year that they would prove the concept. We originally asked for 3%, but reduced that to 1.5%. She thinks that it does not make sense to not bring the employees up to parity. We cannot concede that.

Kevin Brandon feels that there is a contradiction in bringing the employees to parity before developing a compensation plan. It should be done the other way around. That way there is no confusion in the future.

Karen feels that there is value in the employees having stepped in to fill a void that nobody had anticipated.

Shawn Crapo: I see a very good argument for changing our recommendation to the Selectmen's number. I move that we recommend the \$648,687.

Chair Grote: This is what I wanted to comment on. When the study was done of town employees and library employees, we found that there were people in both cases that were below the median.

Cindy confirmed that the town has not done anything with the town employees and that they have not been brought up to parity in terms of pay.

Ray Jarvis arrived at approximately 6:42 p.m.

Ralph made a recommendation that the four employees be brought up to parity but not approve the 1.5 percent performance pool.

Karen Oliver said that the budget in that case should be \$651,047.

Motion is made to recommend a Library budget of \$651,047 by Ralph.

Second by Mae.

Motion is made by Peggy to call the question. Mae seconded. All were in favor except Shawn and Ray who voted against.

Vote, 5 in favor, 6 against. In favor: Jaci, Mae, Randy, Ray and Ralph. Against: Peter, Kevin, Doug, Shawn, Peggy and Phil.

Jaci: The budget will remain at the level previously approved of \$655,289.

Motion to open the public meeting by Phil.

Second by Peggy.

All in favor.

Motion from Shawn to continue the work session simultaneously.

Second by Randy.

All in Favor.

Chair Grote: Let's vote on the first Article. Would anyone like a copy of the warrant articles? We are going to read the warrant article and then ask the public for input.

“Shall the Town 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 nine million one hundred eighty-six thousand two hundred seventy-three dollars (\$9,186,273)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be eight million seven hundred eighty-nine thousand five hundred seventy-three dollars (\$8,789,573) 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. (Majority vote required.)”

Motion to approve by Mae.

Second by Ralph.

Peter recommends shaving a little more from the budget. He suggested reducing the paving and the town-wide vehicle.

He is looking at a \$100,000 reduction in the budget.

All voted in favor of approving the \$9,186,273 budget. Vote 11-0.

Peter Crawford made a motion that Frank Drake be seated as the representative of the Rye Beach Village District.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Chair Grote read the next Warrant Article to the public.

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) to replace the existing salt shed with a larger more efficient salt storage facility to allow all salt operations to be under cover, and authorize the withdrawal of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) from the Salt/Shed Storage Building Capital Reserve Fund created in 2005 for this purpose, and authorize the borrowing of up to six hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$620,000) through the issuance of not more than six hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$620,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (N.H. RSA Chapter 33 as amended) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes, to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof, and to take such actions or to pass any vote relative thereto as may be necessary to effect the issuance, negotiation, sale and delivery of such bonds or notes as shall be in the best interest of the Town of Rye, and further, to apply for, obtain, accept and expend Federal and State Grants or other aid and any private donations that may be available towards this purpose and to comply with all laws applicable to said project. (3/5 ballot vote required.)”

Chair Grote: Any questions from the public on this warrant article?
There were no questions.

Chair Grote: Let’s talk about the \$250,000 Red Mill culvert.

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) for the purpose of replacing the remaining existing culvert under Red Mill Lane. Said sum to include engineering services for construction administration and inspecting of the project, and authorize the borrowing of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (N.H. RSA Chapter 33 as amended) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes, to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof, and to take such actions or to pass any vote relative thereto as may be necessary to effect the issuance, negotiation, sale and delivery of such bonds or notes as shall be in the best interest of the Town of Rye, and further, to apply for, obtain, accept and expend Federal and State Grants or other aid and any private donations that may be available towards this purpose and to comply with all laws applicable to said project. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (3/5 ballot vote required)”

Chair Grote: Any questions from the public on this warrant article?
There were no questions.

Chair Grote: The next is \$200,000 for construction and road paving on Shoals View Drive.

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for the reconstruction and paving of Shoals View Drive, a town maintained road, between Parsons Road and Ocean Boulevard and authorize the borrowing of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (N.H. RSA Chapter 33 as amended) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes, to

determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof, and to take such actions or to pass any vote relative thereto as may be necessary to effect the issuance, negotiation, sale and delivery of such bonds or notes as shall be in the best interest of the Town of Rye, and further, to apply for, obtain, accept and expend Federal and State Grants or other aid and any private donations that may be available towards this purpose and to comply with all laws applicable to said project.. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (3/5 ballot vote required)”

Chair Grote: Any questions from the public on this warrant article?

There were no questions.

Chair Grote: The next one will need our vote. \$624,800 for the purchase of a 3.71 acre parcel of land previously TD Bank.

“To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred twenty-four thousand eight hundred dollars (\$624,800), gross budget, for the purchase of a 3.71 acre parcel of land at 500 Washington Road, the former TD Bank, in order to relocate the Town Clerk/Town Tax Collector office and other Town Hall functions as may be applicable as determined by the Board of Selectmen, with due consideration of the historic, residential character of the neighborhood. Note: This appropriation includes related purchase costs, first year operating budget and potential renovation expenditures. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required)”

Chair Grote: Any questions from the public on this warrant article?

Mike Magnant: The selectmen have voted to bring this forward to the town to see if there is an interest in the town purchasing this and relocating the Town Clerk to this building as well as, more than likely, the Assessor’s office, as the two receive a lot of foot traffic. The building is in good shape and is centrally located.

Randy asks a question about limiting the use of the use of the building. Discussion about whether it should be used for other than town personnel.

Doug made a motion to recommend the warrant article.

Mae seconded.

Mae suggested the possibility of conserving the back portion of the parcel. Some of the town’s conservation money could be used to reduce dramatically the town portion of the cost.

Chair Grote: We are voting on this warrant as it is.

Discussion about what the possibilities for the land.

Town Administrator Mike Magnant: There is a deed restriction that it has to be a bank if it is to remain commercial. It could also be a residence or government purpose. Part of the lot is wet and we are unaware of the restrictions for that.

Building Inspector Peter Rowell: The leach field is way in the back of the property. There is a pump station.

Police Chief Kevin Walsh: The bank parking allows for the school functions and overflow.

There was discussion of possible failure of the leach field.

Citizens offer their opinions about the land purchase.

Mae moved to call the question.

Doug seconded.

All were in favor except Peter.

Vote to recommend the warrant article as is.

Seven for: Doug, Ralph, Phil, Mae, Kevin, Randy and Peter.

Four against: Shawn, Peggy, Jaci and Ray.

Chair Grote: The \$150,000 Warrant article for a recreational facility. Chair Grote read the warrant article.

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to construct a multi-purpose recreation storage facility at the recreation area that includes heated storage, maintenance garage and a concession area. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required.)”

We have already voted on this and it was unanimous. Any comments?

Doug: I live down that road; I believe that there is a lot of traffic in that area.

Recreation Director Lee Arthur explained that this is really for heated storage and to keep all equipment consolidated, not to bring any more traffic to the area. It would be two stories. The upper floor would be approximately 720 sq. ft. and the lower floor approximately 360 sq. ft., for a total of 1000-1200 sq. ft. A concession stand would go down one side of it. There would be no plumbing on that site. Only the upper level would be heated.

Chair Grote: The next \$100,000 is to add to the highway fund. She read the warrant article.

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created in 1994. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required.)”

Chair Grote: Any questions on this warrant article?
There were no questions.

Chair Grote read the next warrant article.

“To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund established by Article 9 of the 1994 Town Meeting to the Fire and Ambulance Vehicle Fund for the purpose of purchasing fire and ambulance vehicles and vehicle equipment and to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend and to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand (\$100,000) to be placed in this fund. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (2/3 vote required).”

Town Administrator Magnant explained the warrant article. The town has two funds that we use to save money for ambulances and fire trucks. The Selectmen want to expand the purpose of both of these accounts, giving the town more flexibility to spend money for ambulances or fire trucks.

Doug: Why is this being done?

Cyndi Gillespie: We just bought a new ambulance out of the cell tower fund. That fund generates more money than the other one. In the meantime, we need a fire truck.

Peter: Are the Selectmen currently agents to expend for the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund?

Mike Magnant: No, the purchase of a new fire truck must go to the town.

Peter: If this article passes the Selectmen would become the agents to expend.

Cyndi Gillespie: I need to verify who is the agent to expend.

Doug: For now I'm going to make a motion to not recommend.

Fire Chief Mark Cotreau: We are going to be doing an assessment of the department and the capital plan for replacing the apparatus is lagging. We are looking for flexibility. That would help us.

Second from Peggy.

All in favor, except Phil. Vote 10-1.

Chair Grote: Pass around the public sign in sheet. The next warrant is \$100,000 to be added to the fire truck capital fund.

Chair Grote read the warrant article.

“If Article ___ is defeated, shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund established by Town vote in 1965. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required.)”

Ralph moves to recommend.

Peter seconds.

Peter asks about two articles for the fire truck and ambulance. It is explained that the DRA is looking for it to be done this way.

All in favor. Vote 11-0.

Chair Grote: The next is a warrant article is to see if the town will vote to raise \$75,000 for the repair of the Harbor Road bridge deck.

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for the remedial repairs of the Harbor Road bridge deck. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required)”

Chair Grote: Mr. McCarthy would you like to speak to this?

Mr. McCarthy: This is ongoing work for the Harbor Road Bridge and maintains the deck pretty much status quo. We were out there today and opened up some of the pavement and took a look at what we’re going to do. This insures that the deck will last long enough where we can get to the point where the state will fund the replacement. We believe this will be 2022.

Chair Grote: Does the public have any questions?

There were no questions.

May I have a motion?

Ralph moves to recommend.

Second by Kevin.

Vote all in favor, except Mae and Phil abstained. Vote 9-0-2.

Chair Grote: The next one has been on the ballot before and was voted unanimously by both the selectmen and the budget committee.

Chair Grote read the warrant. Article.

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the expendable general trust fund known as the Town Employees’ Accumulated Leave Fund, established pursuant to RSA 31:91-a by Article 14 of the 1990 Rye Town Meeting for the purpose of funding Town Employees’ accumulated leave accounts. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required.)”

Any questions? No.

Chair Grote: Next article is voted on in a similar way to \$45,000 for a new mower and replace the existing mower.

Chair Grote read the complete article.

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) to purchase a new mower to replace the existing aging mower and authorize the withdrawal of forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created in 1994 for this purpose. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. This article has no current tax impact. (Majority vote required.)”

Any questions? No.

Chair Grote reads the next warrant article for \$40,000 for a skid steer. This has been previously voted on unanimously by both committees.

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to purchase a new skid steer to replace the current fourteen-year-old skid steer. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required.)”

Any questions? No

Chair Grote read the warrant article for the storm water fund of \$30,000 and an interest payment of \$300.

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for development of a management program for existing storm water infrastructure, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) Clean Water Revolving Fund and to appropriate the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300) for interest payments during 2018. This DES program includes principal forgiveness, thus there is no cost to the town other than a small amount of interest. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (3/5 vote required.)”

Dennis McCarthy spoke to this warrant article. This is for Public Works and it's for a grant that is being offered by the NH Department of Environment Services as part of the ongoing storm water reviews and permitting process. You have to have authority to borrow the money. We had it in the budget last year but they neglected to tell us that the town must have the authority to borrow the money. You borrow the money and then the loan is repaid with the grant money. This is very much a paper transaction.

Frank Drake: How many years?

Dennis: It is over in one year.

Motion to recommend by Mae

Second by Phil.

Any comments?

All in favor. Vote 11-0.

Chair Grote: This has already been voted on. \$25,000 for the municipal buildings trust fund.

Chair Grote reads the complete warrant article.

“To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to The Municipal Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund established by Article 11 at the 2007 Town Meeting under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of major repairs to municipal buildings. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required.)”

Any questions?

Frank Drake: Yes, what is the balance in the maintenance reserve fund today?

Cyndi Gillespie: It's \$83,000.

Any other questions?

There were no other questions.

Chair Grote: To see if the town will establish an expendable trust fund to be known as the library's accumulated leave fund for the purposes the library's accumulated leave and to raise the sum of \$10,000.

Chair Grote read the complete warrant article.

“To see if the Town will vote to establish an Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-1, to be known as Library Employees' Accumulated Leave Fund, for the purpose of funding Library Employees' accumulated leave and to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand (\$10,000) to be placed in this fund, and to designate the Library Trustees as agents to expend. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required.)”

Any questions?

Doug: How has the leave been paid previously?

Chair Grote: This is a new fund. There has never been one before.

Cyndi Gillespie: The Library Trustees took care of the payment due to Tricia's death out of the Library's trust fund.

Chair Grote: Next warrant article is the Rye Public Library Trust Fund for \$5,000.

Chair Grote read the complete warrant article.

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Rye Public Library Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund established by Article 14 at the 2005 Town Meeting under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, as a maintenance fund for the Rye Public Library building. This appropriation is in addition to the Library's operating budget. (Majority vote required.)”

Any questions?

Frank Drake: What is the fund balance?

Chair Grote: I don't have it.

Chair Grote: The next article is \$3,048,077, gross budget, for a new town hall building and razing the existing building.

Chair Grote read the complete warrant article.

“(By Petition) To see if the Town of Rye will vote to authorize the Rye Selectmen to raise and appropriate the sum of three million forty-eight thousand seventy-seven dollars (\$3,048,077) gross budget for the purpose of building a new Town Hall Structure on its current site, along with equipment and furnishings, with some changes to foundation location, and to raze the old Town Hall building.

To construct, pursuant to the design for a New Town Hall, as developed by Rye resident John Loftus, and licensed New Hampshire Architect Robert A. Schaefer, AIA, LEED BD+C from the firm of R.A.SCHAEFER & D, M, WHITE ARCHITECTS.

To authorize The Rye Selectmen, to go forward with the completion of “construction documents”, including required and necessary engineering, by licensed New Hampshire Architect Robert A. Schaefer, AIA, LEED BD+C from the firm of R.A.SCHAEFER & D, M, WHITE ARCHITECTS, and with further project design input by Rye resident John Loftus. The “construction documents” will take into account all applicable codes and ADA requirements. (Please note: Mr. Loftus has not been offered, has not asked for, and will NOT accept any remuneration for any of his design work.)

To authorize The Rye Selectmen, to seek competitive bidding for the physical construction of a new Town Hall, as per the prepared construction documents, and to choose the best bid.

To authorize the borrowing of up to three million forty-eight thousand seventy-seven dollars (\$3,048,077) through the issuance of not more than three million forty-eight thousand seventy-seven dollars (\$3,048,077) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (N.H. RSA Chapter 33 as amended)

To authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes, to determine the rate of interest thereon, and to take such actions as may be necessary to affect issuance, negotiation, sale and delivery of such bonds or notes as shall be in the best interest of the Town of Rye.

(60% vote required) This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.“

Any questions or comments?

Phil Winslow explained why the Selectmen voted three to zero against this.

John Loftus stated that this is the only article that clears up all of the problems for the town. He discusses ADA and Code issues, health issues and why this would be the cheapest option for the town in the long run. This article is to reconstruct this building for all of the personnel that work here.

There was discussion about the town hall offices moving to the old TD Bank building. Everyone wants a new town hall. The question is where and how we approach it. \$700,000 does not make the problem go away. There will be a need for additional monies in the future. Do people see comprehensive renovations for this space?

Peter shared information from the Town Hall survey.

Mae shares that we could get both warrant articles and we could get very good support on this project. The town has to do the HSR report and then the limitations will be lifted. The HSR report has been voted on previously.

Peter talks about the misconception that the building is falling down. The steel beams were required only if the building is to be added onto. Studies have been done on the building and there are no significant structural problems.

Shawn moved to recommend the article.

Randy seconded.

Chair Grote: Are we going to recommend?

Peggy made a motion to move the question.

Ralph seconded

All in favor.

In favor: Randy, Shawn, Ray and Ralph.

Against: Peter, Mae, Jaci, Kevin, Peggy, Phil and Doug.

Vote 4-7.

Motion to not recommend by Kevin.

Seconded by Mae.

In favor: Peter, Mae, Jaci, Kevin, Phil and Doug.

Against: Randy, Shawn, Ray, Ralph and Peggy.

Vote: 6-5.

Peggy explained why she had voted against both motions.

Chair Grote: Next Article, will the town vote to close the hazardous skewed angle intersection. By petition. \$60,000 to make it a dead end.

Chair Grote read the warrant article.

“(By Petition) Will the Town vote to close the hazardous, skewed angle intersection at the juncture of Dow Lane and Lafayette Road (NH Route 1) thereby making Dow Lane

in the Town of Rye, a dead end and will the Town raise and appropriate the sum of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) to pay for all costs associated with the closure.”

Brett Mulvey spoke about the safety issue for cars coming into Dow Lane and various options. Police Chief Kevin Walsh spoke about options other than making a dead end. They are looking for a permanent fix not a temporary fix.

Shawn moved to not recommend.

Second by Mae.

All in favor. Vote 11-0.

Chair Grote: Okay last page. This is the Parsonage article. \$6,000.

Chair Grote read the next article.

“(By Petition) To see whether the Town will vote to require that the Board of Selectmen engage an outside organization to conduct visioning sessions and make recommendations for the Rye Town Center, as recommended by the Parsonage Apartments Long-Range Planning Committee in 2016 and by the Master Plan. These sessions shall, in the context of the Historic Town Center, envision its future in accordance with the residents’ needs and wants. It shall include, at a minimum, visions for the Town Center, together with its walkways and streets, including the existing Town Hall building, the Parsonage Apartments, the Library, the Public Safety Building, the Junior High School, the Trolley Barn (Old Police Station) and, if Article __ (insert number of TD Bank purchase article here) passes, the former TD Bank building. Space availability and needs outside of the Town Center, such as Recreation and the Transfer Center, shall be considered as an element of the overall vision for Rye’s future. No significant funds, other than for acquisition of the land and building, shall be expended on the former TD Bank building until after the sessions have been completed, and any report has been delivered and duly considered. The Town hereby votes to raise and appropriate six thousand dollars (\$6000) for the purpose of conducting the visioning sessions.”

This was Peter’s article. He asked Victor Azzi to speak to the warrant article.

Victor Azzi spoke about the objective of this warrant article. This town has a lot of valuable assets and history. Many individual projects have been pursued in recent years where each is studied. It’s about getting some fresh ideas from outside of the town.

Doug moved to not recommend.

Kevin seconded.

In favor: Kevin, Randy, Jaci, Peggy, Phil, Ralph, Doug.

Against: Mae, Peter, Ray, Shawn.

Vote 7-4.

Chair Grote: The last warrant article is to see if the town will vote to have all environmental monitoring, sample tests and reviews of Rye landfills be done by an independent entity.

Chair Grote read the warrant article.

“(By Petition) To see if the Town will vote to require that all environmental monitoring, sample analysis and interpretation of results in connection with Rye landfills, former landfills and the Coakley Landfill be conducted by an independent entity. An independent entity is defined as an individual or organization that has no personal or familial relationship with any member of any Rye Board, Commission, Committee or any Town employee. All conclusions, reports and supporting documentation relating to tests done in the future, as well as all past tests, shall be kept on file at the Rye Town Hall and, if available in electronic form, timely posted, or linked to, in unaltered form as provided by the independent entity, on the town website in the appropriate, readily visible section. The Town hereby appropriates one dollar (\$1) for the purpose of defraying any unbudgeted costs associated with the implementation of this warrant article.”

Peter’s warrant article. He explains the reason and the results. The one dollar is a place saver. There is a lot of concern about the water quality. He feels we should have a non-biased firm do the water testing.

Motion to not recommend by Doug.

Second by Kevin.

Phil called the question.

Randy seconded the motion to call the question.

All in favor of the motion to call the question except Peter and Shawn.

In favor of not recommending: Ralph, Randy, Mae, Peggy, Phil, Ralph and Doug.

Against not recommending: Peter, Ray, Shawn.

Abstained: Jaci.

Vote 7-3-1.

Motion to Adjourn and close the public hearing and work session by Doug, seconded by Ralph.

All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:33 p.m.