

Town of Rye Budget Committee
Budget Review Work Session
01/23/19

Attendees: Chair Jaci Grote, Scott Marion, Kevin Brandon, Mae Bradshaw (arrived late), Peter Crawford, Shawn Crapo, Ralph Hickson.

Chair Grote explained that this is a Budget Review meeting, a work session for the warrant articles that need to be approved for the ballot.

Chair Grote called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

Chair Grote asked Ms. Bergeron to explain to the board what these three articles are and what the changes are, what drove the changes. We will vote on them one at a time.

Town Hall article

Ms. Bergeron: The first warrant article is for the new Town Hall. The DRA has reviewed this. This is just a minor technical change as to where the 10% override must by statute appear in the warrant article. It was the in last line of the first paragraph. It has been moved to the first line of the first paragraph.

Peter explained that it is required by law to have it in the first sentence.

Chair Grote read the first part of the warrant article as it was, and with the proposed change.

Move to approve the new language by Peter Crawford, second by Kevin Brandon. All in favor.

Pumper/ladder article

Chair Grote moved on to the pumper/ladder.

Ms. Bergeron: This is a rewrite of the article for the \$992,000 lease/purchase. The DRA wants the lease/purchase amount stated at \$992,000. The other change is authorizing the board to negotiate the rate of interest on the lease/purchase as shall be in the best interest of the town. DRA wanted to make this as transparent as we can for the taxpayers.

Mae arrived during the discussion of the pumper/ladder article.

There was discussion about re-wording this article, whether it would be confusing to the taxpayers, and the process of getting DRA to approve any change in the wording.

Mae said that, since some of the money is not being raised by taxation, the language with respect to that should be “appropriate,” not “raise and appropriate.”

There was further discussion.

Mae made a motion to approve the language of the warrant article as is. Jaci will speak to the town manager about the language. Shawn seconded the motion. All in favor.

Ambulance reserve article

Chair Grote: Becky will explain the language on this last warrant article.

Ms. Bergeron: This warrant article gives the ability to take the money from the old ambulance fund and deposit it in the general fund and move it to the new fire and ambulance fund. The source of the revenue needs to be specified as the unassigned fund balance. The cents need to be omitted.

Shawn moved to accept the language, second by Scott. All in favor.

Budget forms

Peter Crawford recommended that the MS forms be addressed rather than the minutes as the warrant needs to be posted on Monday. He explained the problem with the school form to the committee. The individual accounts are off but the bottom line is the correct total. The reconciliation does not come out properly.

Mae: Aren't we just voting on the bottom line? That's all that really matters to me.

Peter said that the budget book does not match MS numbers. Individual accounts are off by tens of thousands of dollars, but the errors net to zero and the total matches.

Shawn moved that the board recommend to both finance administrators, the school and the town, that on behalf of this board, they respond only to whomever is the current Rye Budget Committee Chairperson for requests for information. Second by Scott.

Peter stated that the motion would not affect right-to-know requests.

All in favor, except Peter Crawford.

Mae explains that this is too much of a burden for the staff to take all these calls.

There was discussion about approving a line-by-line budget vs. a bottom line dollar amount.

Chair Grote interjected about the strengths of the committee members and how it makes us a good strong group. She feels these discussions are good for all.

Peter had questions about the Town budget form. He said that he had just gotten it at 1:00 p.m. that day, had already found some problems that he had noted to Becky, but had not finished going through it. He suggested that he would work with Becky to discuss any issues he has. Shawn asked if Becky and Mike feel it's ready to sign. She said that she has made the changes Peter suggested and the form is ready to sign.

There was no objection to Peter continuing to review the form and raise issues with Ms. Bergeron.

Pumper/ladder article

Becky brought up one more point. She said that the language of "raise and appropriate" needs to be in any warrant article, according to an NHMA manual. She said that she is not going to follow up with the

DRA on that issue. Shawn asks if we can add a sentence to add clarification.

Mae read the language of a model warrant article from the manual and indicated that it would be preferable for the pumper/ladder article.

Scott motioned to adjourn the meeting, Shawn seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.