

**TOWN OF RYE SELECT BOARD  
MEETING**

**Monday, January 29, 2024, 8:30 a.m.  
Rye Town Hall & Via Zoom**

***Select Board Present: Chair Tom King, Vice-Chair Bill Epperson, and Selectman Bob McGrath***

***Others Present: Town Administrator Matt Scruton and Asst. Town Administrator/Finance Director Becky Bergeron***

**I. Call to Order**

Chair King called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

**II. Non-Public Session (1) per RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Reputation**

**At 8:31 a.m., Tom King made a motion to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation. Seconded by Bill Epperson. Roll Call: Epperson – Yes, McGrath - Yes, King - Yes.**

**At 8:35 a.m., Tom King made a motion to come out of Non-Public Session. Seconded by Bill Epperson. Roll Call: Epperson – Yes, McGrath – Yes, King - Yes.**

**Reconvene Public Meeting**

**III. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair King reconvened the public meeting at 8:37 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. Warrant Articles**

<p><b>ARTICLE 22.</b> To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the Grove Road Landfill Capital Reserve Fund established by Article 11 at the 1994 Town Meeting to the Landfill Monitoring Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of monitoring all landfills in the Town and to designate the Select Board as agents to expend. (2/3 vote required).</p>
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Finance Director Becky Bergeron explained that both the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) and Attorney Maher opined that the purposes that were originally combined in Article 22 have to be separated out into two articles. One article will be to change the purpose of the Grove Road Landfill to landfill monitoring. A separate warrant will be to raise an appropriate the sum that will be deposited into capital reserves. DRA and Attorney Maher found it inappropriate to have both articles combined into one.

Chair King explained that the Town has a reserve fund to fund monitoring for the Grove Road Landfill. The same is needed for Breakfast Hill and potentially others that may occur. Instead of creating a second landfill monitoring capital reserve, the intent is to combine them. The process of changing the name and purpose requires one article and funding requires a second.

**Motion by Bill Epperson to recommend Article 22 as written. Seconded by Bob McGrath. Vote: 3-0**

**ARTICLE 05.** 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 twelve million, nine hundred twenty-nine thousand, four hundred fifty-five and 00/100 dollars (\$12,929,455.00)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be twelve million, three hundred fifteen thousand, four hundred sixty-two and 00/100 dollars (\$12,315,462.00) 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.)

**NOTE: This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations in any other warrant articles.**

Finance Director Bergeron noted that she has received guidance from DRA regarding the Sewer Fund, which will require a vote on the floor at the Deliberative Session to include in the Town's appropriations. She explained that the Town was previously advised to take the special revenue funds out of the operational warrant article, which was done; however, there is new guidance that requires sewer appropriations to be included, along with corresponding revenues. She pointed out that the default budget needs to be amended to include prior year sewer appropriations. The amount that is being requested for the default budget is \$12,315,462., an increase of \$425,648.; which is the Sewer Budget from prior year. The Select Board has the authority to amend the default budget.

Chair King clarified that DRA recommended that this be done.

Finance Director Bergeron confirmed that there is quite a bit of documented guidance from both DRA and Town Counsel in regard to this matter. She pointed out that DRA is the final authority. If they disallow the article, the Town will not be able to spend or receive income. She noted that this is one hundred percent offset by revenues and there is no tax impact. She also noted that on the floor of the Deliberative Session, a motion will need to be made to increase the Operating Budget to include the current proposed sewer appropriations.

**Motion by Tom King to recommend an amendment to the default budget to \$12,315,462 which is an increase of \$425,648. Seconded by Bill Epperson. Vote: 3-0**

## **V. Other Business**

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Donna Decotis spoke to the Select Board about her request, under RSA 76:13, to waive up to \$25 in interest for the properties located at 705 Brackett Road and 231 Washington Road.

Finance Director Bergeron confirmed that she has received an email from the property owner requesting a waiver of the interest due to extenuating circumstances.

**Motion by Bill Epperson to waive an interest charge of \$24.95 for property located at 705 Brackett Road, Tax Map 017-034-002. Seconded by Bob McGrath. All in favor.**

**Motion by Bob McGrath to waive an interest charge of \$17.87 for 231 Washington Road, Tax Map 016-161. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.**

## **VI. Selectmen, please determine who will speak to the various warrant articles for consideration at the Deliberative Session**

The Select Board reviewed the list of article for the Deliberative Session and assigned speakers to each article.

- There was discussion about the Warrant Article to fund the Emergency Management Capital Reserve Fund and the possibility of amending the amount being requested at the Deliberative Session, due to the expenses incurred during the recent storms. It was agreed by the Select Board to request an amendment to increase the amount to \$35,000.
- Chair King spoke about Fair Funding New Hampshire an organization that advocates to make school funding more equitable for students and taxpayers alike. The organization is holding an SAU 50 Public Forum on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at the Greenland Elementary School. This is an educational session for the public. Chair King noted that return of the donor town tax could be one of the solutions put into a state bill. He encouraged the Board to educate themselves on this issue, so they can take a Select Board position as this may directly affect the Town's taxes.

It was agreed to put the information about the meeting onto the Town's website; however, the Select Board does not support this organization. People should be aware that this group may not have town's best interest at heart with regard to a financial sense.

## **Adjournment**

**Motion by Tom King to adjourn at 9:24 a.m. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dyana F. Ledger