

Select Board Meeting
Tuesday January 15, 2018
Town Offices, Nowak Room
Final Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Members present: Anne Surman, Kathy Corson, Julie Gilman, Molly Cowan, Don Clement, and Russ Dean were present at this meeting. The meeting was called to order by Ms. Gilman at 6:36 PM.

2. Non Public Session - RSA 91-A 3IIa

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to go into non public session under RSA 91-A 3IIa, Employee Compensation. Mr. Clement seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor, and the board went into non public session at 6:38 PM.

3. Board Interviews - Human Services Funding Committee - 6:50 PM

The meeting reconvened at 7:08 PM.

4. Water-Sewer Abatement Requests

- a. There were no owners present, so this item was postponed.

5. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment at this meeting.

6. Proclamations/Recognitions

- a. There were no Proclamations/Recognitions at this meeting.

7. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting: January 7th, 2019

MOTION: Ms. Surman moved to approve the minutes of January 7th, 2019 as written. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

8. Appointments

- a. There were no appointments at this meeting.

9. Discussion/Action Items

- a. Public Hearing: FY19 Bonds, FY19 Operating and Default Budget, and FY19 Warrant Articles

MOTION: Mr. Clement moved to open public hearing town of Exeter 2019 bonds. Ms. Surman seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Dean discussed the bond articles on the ballot for FY19, starting with Exeter Public Library renovations and repairs. He read the text of Article 6: *"To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four million five hundred five thousand eight hundred and eighty five dollars (\$4,505,885) for the design and construction of renovations and repairs, including furniture, fixtures, replacement of the HVAC system, and equipment, of the Exeter Public Library, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$4,505,885 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of*

interest thereon. Debt service will be paid from the general fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: assuming 15 year bond at 2.93% interest: .21/1,000, \$21.18/100,000 value, \$63.55/300,000 value). Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance.”

Ms. Gilman said this article is similar to what was proposed last year, but the library was asked to plan differently, and they came up with a design that costs less, uses the space more efficiently, and addresses the issues. Mr. Clement emphasized that this was similar but not the same plan as last year. It does not add as much square footage and doesn't change the footprint of the existing building.

Mr. Clement asked whether there will be any library closures if the article passes. Ms. Godino said no, they are hoping to limit it to partial closures, for example closing the children's room when they move the books.

Ms. Corson said that the article says "value," but it would be more clear to say "assessed property value." Mr. Dean said he can change that. He mentioned that there is a 51.5 cent impact if all warrant articles were approved. There is a \$7.25/1000 tax rate now; with the Budget and all articles combined, the impact would be \$7.48 total. Mr. Dean added that the five or six "individual" warrant articles do not require a tax impact, since the statute does not apply to this type of article

Paul Royal of 3 Pumpkin Circle asked if the value section of the articles is finalized, because he felt including the \$300,000 value doesn't make it any simpler. Ms. Gilman said all three values will be there. Ms. Cowan asked if they could take out the \$300,000 value without facing a suit, and added that if she were a voter, she wouldn't know what this means. Mr. Dean said that the article was binding, but not the entire article. Counsel's feedback was that the second piece of the article, specifying the median home value, went beyond the RSA, which says the Select Board determines how this information is conveyed. Ms. Cowan wanted to put in only \$1,000 and \$100,000, for simplicity. She pointed out that \$300,000 is not the median price of a home anyway.

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved that on articles showing the tax impact, they specify only tax impact per \$1,000 and \$100,000, and say "assessed property value." Ms. Cowan seconded. Mr. Clement asked Ms. Corson to read the proposed line, and she said "Estimated tax impact assuming a 15 year bond at 2.93% interest: 21 cents per 1,000, \$21.18 per \$100,000 of assessed property value." All were in favor.

MOTION: Mr. Clement moved to recommend Article 6, Exeter Public Library renovations and repairs, as amended. Ms. Corson seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Dean then read Article 7, Recreation Park Design/Engineering: *"To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) for the purpose of creating final design and engineering plans for the Recreation Park Development Project. This project will include community input, surveying, and preliminary design of the Recreation Park followed by a final design proposal supported by the Recreation Advisory Board. Included will be construction documentation to initiate a multi-phased renovation and expansion of the Recreation Park at 4 Hampton Road, and authorize the issuance of not more than (\$250,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), and authorize the Select Board to issue and negotiate such*

bonds or notes and determine the rate of interest thereon. Debt service will be paid from the general fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: assuming 5 year bond at 2.22% interest: .03/1,000, \$3.05/100,000 value, \$9.14/300,000 value). Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance.”

Ms. Gilman said that there was a similar warrant article last year that did not pass, and they had asked the department to come back with a phased approach to the project. Greg Bisson, the Director of Parks and Rec, said that they have discussed this project since 2014, beginning with the UNH needs assessment. This is the conceptual design agreed upon by stakeholders. Article 7 will create a multiphase plan to move the park forward. The article failed last year; this year, they are being fiscally responsible by taking steps to build it correctly. He added that the Rec Advisory board supports this approach.

Stephanie Papakonstantis, the Chair of the Rec Advisory Board, spoke about the project. She emphasized that they are not starting from square one; last year's project is the plan. They listened to the voters and the Select Board and have come up with a phased approach. They can't just redo Planet Playground, they need to determine where to put it. This approach is fiscally responsible and gives them the opportunity to solicit funds with a master plan.

Ms. Cowan said that the Rec summer camp program is great, but hard to get into, and wondered if this project would address expanding that program. Mr. Bisson said that the problems will not go away. They expanded the summer camp this year, but still had to hire a detail officer to manage the parking lot on sign-up day. This study will address their options to expand and maximize the full acreage.

Mr. Clement said that he still wanted to get a better idea of the scope of services involved. Mr. Dean said that the scope of services not set in stone; they're just trying to get at a scope. Ms. Papakonstantis added that \$250,000 is not a lot of money for project development. Someone from Exeter is donating their time to do this project at a lesser cost. Ms. Corson appreciated that someone is donating their services, but said there could be other candidates, and Ms. Papakonstantis replied they will be putting it out to bid.

Niko Papakonstantis, the Chair of the Budget Recommendations Committee, said that when this project brought before the BRC three years ago, it was not recommended by a majority. Rec brought it back last year, and the BRC unanimously recommended it. It went on the ballot as a Citizen's Petition, but he felt it should have gone on as the Warrant Article presented to the BRC. This year, Parks and Rec put together a Rec Advisory Committee, which is a great step. The voters did speak last year; the best approach is in phases. The Board should consider voting to recommend this to the voters. Mr. Clement said that although Mr. Bisson had tried to address his concerns, the scope is still unclear.

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to recommend Article 7, Recreation Park Design/Engineering, to go on the warrant. Ms. Surman seconded. Ms. Cowan, Ms. Corson, Ms. Gilman, and Ms. Surman voted yay. Mr. Clement voted nay and the motion passed 4-1-0.

Mr. Dean next read Article 8, on Salem Street Water/Sewer/Drainage Improvements. *“To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred twenty-five thousand and zero dollars (\$325,000) for the purpose of design and engineering costs for utility improvements including water, sewer, roads and drainage in the Summer/Salem Street, Park*

Street, and Warren Avenue areas, and authorize the issuance of not more than (\$325,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), and authorize the Select Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and determine the rate of interest thereon. Debt service to be shared by the water, sewer and general funds. (Estimated Tax Impact: assuming 5 year bond at 2.22% interest: .0004/1,000, \$0.37/100,000 value, \$1.10/300,000 value). Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance.”

Mr. Dean added that the General Fund portion of this project is only \$30,000.

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to recommend Article 8, Salem Street Water/Sewer/Drainage Improvements. Mr. Clement seconded. All were in favor.

MOTION: Mr. Clement moved to close the public hearing on 2019 Town of Exeter Bonds. Ms. Surman seconded. All were in favor.

MOTION: Mr. Clement moved to open the public hearing on 2019 Budget and other warrant articles. Ms. Surman seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Dean introduced Articles 10,11, and 12 on the Town Warrant. Article 10 is the General Fund operating budget, Article 11 is the Water Fund budget, and Article 12 is the Sewer budget. He said that the town budget goes into development in the summer. In September, the original request and Capital Improvement requests are turned over to the Select Board and BRC. In October the town gets a new health insurance rating, and the budget is adjusted. In October/November the BRC and subcommittees meet with the department heads to understand the requests. Minutes and streamed meetings for all BRC sessions are available online. In December, the Select Board receives the recommendations of the BRC. Warrant articles will be discussed in the Deliberative Session on Saturday Feb 2nd. Tuesday March 12th is voting day for all town and school articles.

Mr. Dean stated that each of the three operating budgets has its own default budget, which goes into effect if voters do not approve. Bonds are separate on the warrant. The budget forms are the MS636 state form for the operating budget and the MSDTB for the default budget.

Mr. Dean read Article 10 on the 2019 operating budget, adding that the language is prescribed by RSA 40:13. *“Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriation 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 \$19,073,391. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$18,941,637, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter 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. (Estimated Tax Impact: .02/1,000, \$2.00/100,000 value, \$6.00/300,000 value).”*

Mr. Dean added that the impact was estimated at 15 cents but is now down to 2 cents. \$19,073,391 is a 2.29% increase, or \$426,747, over the FY18 approved budget of \$18,646,644. This is 1.03% over the adjusted FY18 budget of \$18,836,060, which included the Police Collective Bargaining agreement, the Engine 4 replacement, and the DPW loader.

Mr. Dean stated that the largest three town departments are Fire, EMS, and Public Works, which comprise 68% of total budget. In employee wages, there will be a step adjustment for non union full and part time employees of 2.23% on July 1st, which is included. A Police union contract was included in the 2018 approved budget. DPW and Fire have 3 year contracts on the 2019 Town Warrant as separate articles. In benefits, there is a health insurance increase of 6.9%. There are a few personnel requests, which combined represent 2.2 FTE: a Town Clerk assistant, HR/Benefits/IT support, and a Fire Department admin assistant, as well as a part time to full time increase for the Parks/Rec office manager.

In expenses, there was a decrease in the Select Board budget of \$5,044 due to a sign replacement in 2018. There's an expense for a Town Clerk PT assistant, and a reduction in the Record Retention line of \$19,000 to reflect a completed project. There was an Elections reduction of \$7,106 due to fewer elections in 2019. There is an Assessing Postage increase for the 2019 property revaluation. Economic Development requested \$1,000 for intern hours.

There's an increase of \$7,000 in Police staff overtime for additional cases. There's a reduction of \$14,000 in the Equipment purchase line, due to radar equipment purchased in 2018, there's not as much this year. There's a Communications reduction of \$29,543. There's a Solid Waste increase due to tipping/disposal contractual increases with Waste Management and recycling market volatility. The default budget doesn't include this but it must be paid. Mr. Clement asked how much more is the recycling contract increase, and Mr. Dean responded \$78 in the contract but going up to \$100.30 per ton. The budget number has not changed yet. There's a brush dump grinding increase, which is offset by additional fee permit revenue and a blue bag fees increase. There's a Welfare budget increase of 20.6%, to \$29,909, which is offset by outside revenue sources, so there's no net impact. The streetlight budget is increasing by \$20,340. They will replace 695 lights with LED lighting, which is a separate article; they will save \$30,000 a year for a 5 year payback. Primex offered the town a worker's comp "premium holiday," which results in \$115,000 budget savings in 2019.

On the revenue side, there's an increase in the Motor Vehicle Permit estimate from \$2,850,000 to \$3,025,000. Increased income from departments move the projected revenue from \$870,000 to \$1,000,000. There's an increase in the EMS fund transfer from \$184,989 to \$220,857. They recommend using the \$116,090 in excess proceeds from the Court Street Bridge project towards the principal payment of the Court Street Bond. A Land Use Change tax realized in Nov 2018 brought in \$300,000 from the Epping Road TIFF Road project. They're using a Fund Balance of \$600,000 to lower the tax rate. Total revenues applicable to budget are \$7,394,936. Total taxes to be raised are \$11,678,455. Last year, \$11,875,246 (\$12,193,059 including warrant articles). Budget as presented represents an 11 cents per thousand drop in the tax rate, \$6.78 vs \$6.67 in FY19. Mr. Dean then discussed the percentage changes for each category of the General budget, for a total of a 2.17% increase.

Mr. Dean then spoke about the default budget, which goes into effect if the operating budget is not approved. This is defined by RSA 40:13, and the definition was amended by the state legislature in 2018. The default budget for FY19 is \$18,947,631, which does not include the solid waste contract increase. This figure is \$131,754 less than the proposed budget.

The operating budget tax impact is \$6.67/1,000. The default budget tax impact is \$6.60/1000. The Overlay and Veterans Credits add 30 cents to the final rate, for \$6.97/1,000.

The math is based on Sept 2018 values, which are undergoing revaluation, so there could be increases in 2019.

Ms. Cowan asked if there is actually an 11 cent tax cut in the 2019 budget. Mr. Dean said to get to the tax impact, they took last year's budget article, \$18,646,644, and last year's revenues, and backed out the warrant articles: the police bargaining agreement, the loader, those had to come out. Then they accounted for changes in revenue in 2019. If they consider that revenue offsets the budget, there will be an 11 cent tax cut. The total estimated rate is \$7.48 with all warrant articles approved. The rate impact is 50 cents with all warrant articles, but the additional revenue offsets the increase.

Ms. Gilman asked if they could change the budget for Transportation Services to draw from the Transportation Fund. Mr. Dean said that \$10,000 of the COAST budget comes from the General Government budget, but they could cover that from the Transportation Fund. Ms. Chester stated that this is line item 119. Mr. Clement wanted to make the line item \$1, rather than zeroing it out.

MOTION: Mr. Clement moved that HR line item 0141550115110, Salary and Wages, with the amount of \$19,515 for a new hire, be reduced to zero. Ms. Surman seconded. Ms. Surman and Mr. Clement voted yay. Ms. Cowan, Ms. Corson, and Ms. Gilman voted nay, and the motion failed 2-3-0.

MOTION: Mr. Clement moved that line item 01414001511200 in the Town Clerk's budget be reduced by \$16,568 to zero. Ms. Surman seconded. Ms. Surman, Ms. Corson, Mr. Clement, Ms. Gilman voted yay. Ms. Cowan voted nay, and the motion passed 4-1-0.

MOTION: Mr. Clement moved that line item 01465203071200, part time wages for interns and recording secretary, be reduced by \$3,000. Ms. Surman seconded. Ms. Cowan said she believes in paying interns. Mr. Clement questioned what the intern had contributed. Mr. Dean said the intern had put in a lot of hours and created a 115 page draft of the economic development strategic plan. Mr. Clement and Ms. Surman voted yay. Ms. Cowan, Ms. Gilman, and Ms. Corson voted nay, and the motion failed 2-3-0.

MOTION: Mr. Clement moved to remove \$3,000 from the Economic Development Consulting Services line item. Ms. Surman seconded. Mr. Dean said that this account is used if the Economic Development office has a proposal out or for an opinion of cost/appraisal, based on the situation. It's a placeholder; they didn't spend it all in 2018, but given the track record they will spend something. It's market-driven. If there are no funds to do it, they get stuck. Mr. Clement felt that they have in-house personnel to do this work. Ms. Corson said they can't do appraisals. Mr. Clement responded that the developer should do appraisals. Mr. Dean said that the town would end up paying for it anyway. Ms. Surman and Mr. Clement voted yay. Ms. Corson, Ms. Cowan, and Ms. Gilman voted nay, and the motion failed 2-3-0.

MOTION: Mr. Clement moved to reduce line item 0142210501110, salary and wages, for the part time clerk for the Fire Department, by \$10,648. Ms. Surman seconded. Mr. Clement voted

yay. Ms. Corson, Ms. Cowan, Ms. Surman, and Ms. Gilman voted nay, and the motion failed 1-4-0.

MOTION: Mr. Clement moved to reduce DPW line item 01431106065203, Contractual Services for cleaning, from \$26,000 to zero. Ms. Surman seconded. Mr. Clement and Ms. Surman voted yay. Ms. Corson, Ms. Cowan, and Ms. Gilman voted nay, and the motion failed 2-3-0.

Mr. Clement said asked about the new budget for waste disposal. Jennifer Perry, the Public Works director, said that the recycling fee was projected to be \$81/ton, but Waste Management will be charging \$100.30/ton. They recycle 128 tons/month, for an extra yearly cost of \$29,645. She mentioned a potential reduction of \$7,400/year if they removed the performance bond with Waste Management, since she doesn't see them going out of business. They could also remove glass from recycling, since that is the heaviest component; the cost would then go down to \$85.67/ton. Mr. Clement said he doesn't want to take a step backwards on recycling. Mr. Dean said there is a Warrant Article on LED lighting; should that article pass, they will see savings in the DPW streetlight line. The Snow and Ice budget could be lower. Ms. Corson said they'd have to work up to removing glass. Mr. Dean said that \$22,243 would be added to the budget in the solid waste disposal line item. He is concerned about the default budget, which can't accommodate the solid waste increase. Mr. Clement said that they budget \$940,000 for Waste Management, but it needed to be adjusted by adding \$22,000.

MOTION: Mr. Clement moved to increase line item 01432306045834 to \$962,000. Ms. Surman seconded. All were in favor.

MOTION: Mr. Clement moved to reduce line 01452008021210, Park Department wages temp, by \$8200 to \$11,000. Ms. Surman seconded. Mr. Bisson said this is not just a summer position, they need help from May to the end of September. Grass grows 20 - 30% more in the spring, and they'll be playing catch-up on leaf pickup from last year. Municipal buildings need to be mowed for safety. Ms. Gilman asked if adding the two positions changes Contracting Services. Mr. Bisson said yes, but other services went up, such as fertilizer, mulch, and overseeding. Ms. Corson, Mr. Clement, and Ms. Surman voted yay. Ms. Gilman and Ms. Cowan voted nay, and the motion passed 3-2-0.

Ms. Surman said that she would like to increase Human Services by \$1,400 to donate to the NHSPCA in Stratham. The town contributed to the shelter for over 20 years, but the donation was taken out of the budget several years ago. It's a nominal amount of money and it's important to support them. She added that the NHSPCA works with Exeter's Police Department.

MOTION: Ms. Surman moved to add \$1,400 to the Human Services line item, increasing it to \$108,025. Mr. Clement seconded. Ms. Gilman said they had set a policy and a charge that this motion would be going against. If they pass this, she wondered whether other non Human Services agencies will ask for funds next year. Mr. Clement and Ms. Surman voted yay. Ms. Gilman, Ms. Cowan, and Ms. Corson voted nay, and the motion failed 2-3-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to reduce the Transportation line item 01419901195574 to \$1. Ms. Corson seconded. Mr. Dean said that the COAST assessment would be paid from the Transportation Fund. Ms. Gilman, Ms. Cowan, Ms. Corson, and Mr. Clement voted yay. Ms. Surman voted nay, and the motion passed 4-1-0.

Ms. Gilman said there is an opportunity for the HDC to get a state grant to create a preservation plan, for which the town must provide matching funds. The state wants towns to have this plan to go with the statewide preservation plan, which celebrates history with an eye towards tourism. This is also a goal of the master plan. It would be a 40/60 match, with \$7,500 coming from the town.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to add \$7,500 to line item 01419103045022 for HDC grant matching. Ms. Cowan seconded. Ms. Gilman, Ms. Cowan, Ms. Corson, and Mr. Clement voted yay. Ms. Surman voted nay and the motion passed 4-1-0.

Ms. Chester stated that the new operating budget total was \$19,161,339. Ms. Corson said that they subtracted \$27,000 and added \$22,000, so it should be \$5,000 less, not more, and Ms. Chester took another look at the revisions.

Mr. Dean read Article 11, on the Water Budget: *“Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as a water operating budget, not including appropriation 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 \$3,253,033. Should this article be defeated, the water default budget shall be \$3,294,537 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law.”*

Mr. Dean stated that the FY19 proposed budget is \$3,253,033, a 3.22% decrease over FY18 budget. The Default budget is higher, since FY19 is a 1.99% decrease over FY18. The Enterprise Fund is used to operate and maintain water systems. There’s a property insurance decrease of \$29,267. Water billing increased by \$7,793, or 5%. There’s an increase of PT billing clerk hours from 16 to 24 hours per week, with the cost shared by the Sewer Fund. Water distribution decreased by \$31,446, a 3.8% reduction. There was a \$60,448 decrease in the Contract Maintenance line for the water tank contracts with Suez. The contracts are frontloaded, they rehabilitate the tanks first, then maintain them. There’s an increase of \$5,000 in Metering and Backflow, and \$17,500 for the Stadium Well rehabilitation. There’s a Water Treatment decrease of \$58,000, due to the one-time expense of the Groundwater Plant basin/lagoon cleaning of \$44,000 in 2018 being eliminated from the 2019 budget. The Consulting budget is reduced by \$15,000. Electricity is reduced by \$13,525. Debt service is reduced by \$57,137, or 5.1%, due to retirement of debt. Capital outlay has increased by \$54,419, or 87.4%.

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to recommend Article 11, the 2019 Water Budget, to the town warrant. Mr. Clement seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Dean read Article 12, on the Sewer budget: *“Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as a sewer operating budget, not including appropriation 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*

\$2,817,866. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,462,004 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law."

Mr. Dean said that there is a property insurance decrease of \$29,280, due to an updated property assessment. Sewer billing increased by \$4,993, for the part time billing clerk shared by the Water Fund. Sewer Collection decreased by \$498. Sewer Treatment had an increase of \$372,264, or 67.8%, for the new Water Treatment Plant, for solids handling, electricity, and chemicals. Debt service was reduced by \$93,109 or 13.9%. Capital Outlay had a decrease of \$30,271, or 22.1%. The FY19 Proposed budget is \$2,817,866, a 9.73% increase; FY19 Default \$2,463,004, a 4.13% decrease from FY18. The sewer rates capture more revenue than expenses. Mr. Clement said that the electricity costs double at the new plant, and asked if there is room for a solar array to defray electrical costs. Ms. Gilman said there's probably not room for something substantial, and the building was not oriented with that in mind, but it's something to look at.

MOTION: Ms. Corson recommended Article 12, Sewer Budget, to the 2019 warrant. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

Ms. Chester stated that the revised operating budget number is \$19,066,857.

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved Article 10, the 2019 operating budget, as amended, to \$19,066,857 for the Town Warrant. Mr. Clement seconded. Ms. Surman voted nay and the motion passed 4-1-0.

Ms. Gilman moved on to Article 13, the Fire Collective Bargaining Agreement. Mr. Dean corrected some of the numbers from the article as written: the FY20 Salary/Benefits would increase \$25,250, not \$50,822. FY21, 16,544, not \$34,364. The health premium savings is \$6,100 in FY 20 and FY21. This is a three year agreement with the firefighters, and they're looking for \$22,066 to cover first year. There's a step of 2.5% in first year, a step and a 1% COLA in the second year, and a step of 2.5% in the third year. There have been a clarification of personal leave and new language about floating shifts for firefighters. He mentioned that this is one of the individual warrant articles with no tax impact listed.

MOTION: Mr. Clement moved to recommend Article 13 as amended to indicate that FY20 is now \$25,250 and health premium savings \$6,100; FY 21 is \$16,544 and health premium savings is \$6,100. Ms. Surman seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Dean moved on to Article 14, the SEIU Collective Bargaining Agreement. This is also a three year agreement, with a slot and a step in the first year, a step and a 1% COLA in the second year, and a step and a 1% COLA in the third year. Some of this comes from the General Fund, and some from Water and Sewer Funds. They will drop the Blue Choice plan for health insurance and migrate to Access Blue New England, which results in a cost savings for the town. He felt that this is an equitable agreement.

MOTION: Mr. Clement moved to recommend Article 14, the SEIU Collective Bargaining Agreement. Ms. Corson seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Dean moved on to Article 15, the Epping Road Sidewalk Extension TAP Grant. Mr. Sharples said there were no updates on whether they got the grant. Mr. Dean suggested that they have a special meeting to determine how to proceed when they hear back. The warrant needs to be posted by Jan 28th. Mr. Clement pointed out that the article contained the language “This article will not become effective unless the NHDOT grant is awarded to the town.”

MOTION: Mr. Clement moved that for Article 16, \$40,000 to be added to the Sidewalk and Capital Reserve Fund. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

MOTION: Mr. Clement moved to recommend Article 16 as amended. Ms. Surman seconded. All were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to recommend the Article 15 Epping Road Sidewalk Extension TAP Grant Project. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

Ms. Gilman moved on to Article 17, Replace Streetlights with LED Streetlights. She said there has been a lot of research done on this by the Energy Committee and DPW, and there’s nothing bad about this. They will be replacing all 695 streetlights. The current ones have very little time left. The new lights will last 30 years, and will pay for themselves within 5 years.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to recommend Article 17, Replace Streetlights with LED Streetlights. Ms. Cowan seconded. Mr. Clement asked if the exact number of lights must be in the article; Ms. Gilman said she wanted to show they were replacing all the lights. Mr. Clement pointed out that the Academy pays for some lights, so they’re not replacing every streetlight in town. Mr. Dean said they did a recent inventory and that was the number, but it’s unaudited. He suggested they could add “approximately” to the article. All were in favor.

Mr. Dean read Article 18, Hook Lift Truck: *“To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a 5-year lease/purchase agreement for \$174,959 for the purpose of lease/purchasing a hook lift style dump truck for the Exeter Water/Sewer Department to replace a 2008 truck to be transferred to the Highway Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-one thousand seven hundred eighty dollars (\$41,780), which represents the first of 5 annual payments for that purpose. This lease/purchase will contain an escape (non-appropriation) clause. This sum to come from water and sewer fees.”*

Mr. Dean added that this is in the CIP. The Highway Department is going to get a 2008 truck that Water/Sewer currently possesses. Highway will trade in the old truck replaced by the 2008 truck; proceeds will go to the Water/Sewer Department. He mentioned that lease purchases are always separate warrant articles.

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to recommend Article 18, Hook Lift Truck for the Water/Sewer Department. Mr. Clement seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Dean read Article 19, on Public Safety Dispatch Upgrades: *“To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of one hundred fifty-three thousand four hundred and fifty one dollars (\$153,451), for the purpose of making upgrades to*

the Town's public safety dispatch system. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .088/1,000, \$8.77/100,000 value, \$26.30/300,000 value)."

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to recommend Article 19, Public Safety Dispatch Upgrades, to town warrant. Mr. Clement seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Dean read Article 20, Establish Town Parks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund and Funding: *"To see if the Town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund under RSA 35:1 known as the "Parks Improvements Fund" for the purpose of making capital improvements to town parks including but not limited to Kids Park, Townhouse Common, Gilman Park, Founders Park, Recreation Park and others, and to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred-thousand (\$100,000) to be placed in this fund and further the Select Board shall be named agents of the fund and be authorized to make expenditures from the fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: .057/1,000, \$5.71/100,000 value, \$17.14/300,000 value)."*

Mr. Dean added that this is the Capital Reserve Fund, which replaces a list of Capital Improvement Projects. This would not be subject to the April to December budget crunch. The Select Board will be involved in approving projects. Ms. Surman said she's not a fan of Capital Reserve Funds; she would rather have it planned out and approved in advance. Mr. Clement: can see the value of this fund, since it's like a facilities fund and address issues as time goes on. The Select Board is named as the agents of the fund, and Parks must come forward with plans for approval before the project is started. Ms. Corson agreed that this makes sense as a Capital Reserve Fund.

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to recommend Article 20 to establish a Town Parks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund and Funding. Ms. Cowan seconded. Ms. Surman voted nay and the motion passed 4-1-0.

Mr. Dean read Article 21, Establish Vehicles/Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and Funding: *"To see if the Town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund under RSA 35:1 for the purpose of making vehicle replacements for town departments, including police, maintenance, highway, and light duty vehicles, and to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred-thousand (\$100,000) to be placed in this fund and further the Select Board shall be named agents of the fund and be authorized to make expenditures from the fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: .057/1,000, \$5.71/100,000 value, \$17.14/300,000 value)."*

Mr. Dean added that they consistently have Police vehicles in the budget, but other vehicle purchases differ from year to year. This is a fund that would give them more time to prioritize, and put money in the fund year over year. This is not lease purchasing, it's for cash purchases and things that would otherwise be in the budget. Mr. Clement said that he's not in favor of this fund, since there is already a vehicle improvement and replacement plan in place. Ms. Corson said there were vehicles on the CIP, and asked what the total from CIP would be if they don't create the fund. Mr. Dean said that the requests were slightly over \$100,000, so they could defer one purchase to the following year. Alternately, they could increase the budget by \$130,000. Ms. Surman said these should be in the budget; it's not being transparent to put a recurring expense in the warrant articles. Ms. Gilman asked if the Police cruisers would that come out of the budget. Mr. Dean said no, the two cruisers are the only vehicles in the operating budget.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to recommend Article 21 to the warrant. Ms. Cowan seconded. Ms. Gilman and Ms. Cowan voted yay. Ms. Corson, Mr. Clement, and Ms. Surman voted nay and the motion failed 2-3-0.

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to continue the public hearing on Tuesday January 22nd, at 6 PM in the Nowak Room. Ms. Surman seconded. All were in favor.

b. Water Sewer Abatement Policy

Ms. Gilman suggested deferring this discussion since Bob Kelly, chair of the Water and Sewer Subcommittee, was not present,.

10. Regular Business

a. Tax, Water/Sewer Abatements and Exemptions

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to approve the following veteran credits: Map 11 Lot 18 Unit 2015; Map 69 Lot 19; Map 64 Lot 105 Unit 86; Map 104 Lot 29; Map 70 Lot 144; Map 52 Lot 69; and Map 68 Lot 6 Unit 131 for the amount of \$500. Mr. Clement seconded. All were in favor.

b. Permits & Approvals

Ms. Corson suggested deferring the permits and approvals.

c. Town Manager's Report

d. Select Board Committee Reports

e. Correspondence

11. Review Board Calendar

a. The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, January 22nd at 6 PM

12. Non-Public Session

13. Adjournment

MOTION: Ms. Surman moved to adjourn. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor, but the meeting was reconvened to approve a permit.

MOTION: Ms. Surman moved to approve the Town Hall use of Prescott Park Arts Festival 11/4/19 to 12/18/19. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Surman moved to adjourn. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bartell
Recording Secretary