

Select Board Bond and Budget Hearing
Tuesday, January 19, 2021
7 PM
Remotely via Zoom
Final Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Members present: Julie Gilman, Molly Cowan, Lovey Roundtree Oliff, Daryl Browne, Niko Papakonstantis, and Russ Dean were present at this meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Papakonstantis at 7 PM.

Mr. Papakonstantis read a statement:

As Chair of the Select Board, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Public notice of this meeting was posted on the town website and on the bulletin board of the town offices at 10 Front Street. As provided in that public notice, the public may access the meeting online and via phone. The usual rules of conduct and decorum will apply.

Please note that all votes taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote. Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting and who that person is, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this meeting.

3. Proclamations/Recognitions

Mr. Papakonstantis thanked Peg Duhamel for her service; she was a longtime volunteer for the town who recently passed away.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting: January 11, 2021

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve the minutes of January 11, 2021 as presented. Ms. Cowan seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion/Action Items

a. 2021 Deliberative Session

Town Moderator Paul Scafidi and Supervisor of the Checklist Vicky Nawoichyk were present to discuss the Deliberative Session.

Mr. Papakonstantis said they have the option of having a traditional Deliberative Session or following the alternative process HB1129.

Mr. Papakonstantis said that after touring the facility at the High School, James Murray felt the air quality was fine, as Rusty Lyster had indicated last week.

In the packet is a draft letter to Gov. Sununu that Mr. Dean was asked to write, requesting that Gov. Sununu issue an Executive Order to allow towns to hold a virtual Deliberative Session.

MOTION [amended]: Mr. Browne moved to send Mr. Dean's letter to Governor Sununu. Ms. Cowan seconded.

Ms. Cowan asked to include in the letter information about the new strain of Covid that's been found in Massachusetts. She argued that they're allowed to vote at the virtual Select Board meetings, so Deliberative Session, since it's not an election, should fall under the Executive Order that they already have. Attorney Mitchell said other attorneys don't think the existing Executive Order applies to the Deliberative Session. They would need a new Executive Order. Ms. Gilman said there's the opportunity for the public to amend warrant articles, which requires a majority vote. Ms. Nawoichyk asked if any other towns were sending similar letters. Mr. Dean said many communities are just going forward with their Deliberative Sessions. Ms. Cowan asked if other towns had adopted the HB1129 process, and Mr. Dean said he only knew of Newmarket, but they only have a single budget article and school article. Attorney Mitchell said his office represents 50 communities, and he's not aware of any that have gone with HB1129.

MOTION: Mr. Browne amended the motion to specify that the letter should include Ms. Cowan edits and contingent on Attorney Mitchell's review. Ms. Gilman amended her second. By a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dean said they took a tour of the High School and saw the spaces that would be in use: the main auditorium, the small gym for non-masked attendees, and supplemental outdoor options in the Senior Parking Lot. Technical details were vetted. The Moderators consulted with officials regarding safety and security. Mr. Scafidi discussed the proposed details of checking in and the set-up in the auditorium. They should be able to get up to 280 people in the auditorium with proper social distancing. Those in the small gym can speak into a camera and interact with the people on stage. Usually a maximum of 200 people attend Deliberative Session, so they should be ok.

Ms. Cowan asked how they would address people who didn't want to come in person. Mr. Scafidi said the SAU is going to try to do an area outside, but he didn't think it was feasible. They can always change their mind up until the time of the meeting. He will attend the SAU Deliberative Session on January 30, so he can see how it works for them. Ms. Cowan said they are catering to people who don't want to wear masks instead of people who have pre-existing conditions who want to participate, and it feels like a slap in the face to those who care about safety. Mr. Scafidi said if that's the Board's feeling they can work around it. Ms. Gilman said the outdoor option is unworkable. A similar approach took the State House months to plan. That said, Ms. Cowan's concerns are valid, and she [Ms. Gilman] is leaning toward HB1129. Ms. Cowan wondered if they could be facing a suit from Riverwoods for not allowing them to participate virtually. Mr. Scafidi said he didn't know. Ms. Cowan said they're asking people to risk their lives for democracy and she won't support it. Mr. Scafidi said they can't make everyone happy. He described the challenges of the outdoor option. Ms. Oliff asked about the Riverwoods

attendees; Mr. Scafidi said he doesn't recall that a large number attend Deliberative Session, but Ms. Nawoichyk said there are a number of attendees from Riverwoods, perhaps half of the attendees. Mr. Dean said when they toured the High School, the logistics of the outside option sounded unworkable. They have 18 - 20 articles, vs the SAU having one article. Mr. Papakonstantis said the town session could be six or seven hours.

Ms. Gilman asked how they would capture the commenters' registration information in HB 1129, and Ms. Nawoichyk discussed the proposed details. Ms. Nawoichyk added that she agrees with Ms. Cowan, but will do her duty if asked. Ms. Cowan asked about people listening in their cars, and Mr. Scafidi said they don't have a way to broadcast it via radio. If everyone brought a tablet, they could Zoom it, but that didn't seem feasible. They could also do it via speakers with the windows rolled down; if attendees wanted to talk, they'd have to get out of their cars and speak to the microphone. Mr. Glowacky said the town has an FM transmitter, but the school didn't want to use it because they believed there would be a delay in audio. They haven't tested how far it goes, but probably the front parking lot. They could do an audio set up similar to the movie nights. There wasn't a delay between the speakers and the FM transmitters. Ms. Gilman said in a large group at the State House there was a delay. Mr. Papakonstantis said it would be a much smaller number of attendees than at the State House.

Mr. Dean said the proposed date is Feb 6, and the time of session typically 9 AM. He cautioned that relying too much on technology can backfire, as with the town of Henniker, which recently tried to have a meeting through complicated technology and none of it worked. He hopes that Mr. Glowacky and Mr. Cremmen of the HS will talk further. Mr. Papakonstantis asked when they have to decide between Deliberative and HB 1129. Mr. Dean said if they follow HB 1129, there's a 7 day notice period where they have to notify all registered voters by mail. They shouldn't delay the decision any further.

MOTION [not voted]: Ms. Cowan moved to hold an online deliberative session, complete with registering and checking off voters. Ms. Gilman said she will second if she amends it to specify per HB 1129. Ms. Cowan said she's not in favor of HB 1129. She wants everyone to be safe and still participate. Mr. Browne seconded the motion without adding HB 1129. Mr. Scafidi asked for a definition of a virtual meeting. Ms. Cowan said she wants to provide the same safety to voters as a Select Board meeting. Everyone can stay home and participate, but she's fine with whatever process they must have to check in the voters. Mr. Scafidi asked what Attorney Mitchell thought of this. Attorney Mitchell said there are a number of bond articles on the warrant, and when the bond council finds out that they've gone in a different direction on Deliberative Session, he doesn't think they'll approve the bonds, even if it's supported by the voters. Ms. Gilman said they don't have the option to do a different process, the State tells them what they can do.

MOTION [not voted]: Ms. Cowan said she will amend it to require an in-person vote where they drop off the ballots, but a Deliberative Session that is participatory online.

Attorney Mitchell said that absent some kind of Executive Order, they can't do that. Ms. Oliff asked if everyone who wishes to participate must be present, but if people could also be watching it from home and cycle in only to vote. Attorney Mitchell said the voting is throughout, not at the end of the meeting. Mr. Scafidi said he can't see that working. They have to vote on amendments before continuing discussion on the warrant articles. Mr. Dean said they've been dealt a tough hand, but they have to work with the schematic they have in front of them. Ms. Gilman said she would withdraw her second of the first motion.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked Ms. Cowan to reiterate the motion for voting.

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved that they hold a Deliberative Session online, verifying voters, allowing for amendments during the meeting, then moving to an in-person vote at the end of the Session if necessary. Mr. Browne said he seconds this motion. Mr. Dean said he would need direction on posting the warrant if this passes. Ms. Gilman said she came to the meeting in favor of the virtual option, but this goes beyond what the State allows. Mr. Papakonstantis said that safety is the most important thing, and they've been meeting virtually since March, and they've said no to requests for permits for safety reasons. The State has only given them two options, and neither are good. Mr. Browne, Ms. Cowan, Ms. Oliff, and Mr. Papakonstantis voted yes; Ms. Gilman voted nay. The motion passed 4-1.

Mr. Scafidi asked what happens if the State says they can't do that. They must have a plan B. Ms. Oliff said she feels that smaller towns and cities have to make decisions on their own, like the mask ordinance. They saw how the [Covid] numbers played out in that case. They need to do what they must to protect their citizens. The State hasn't helped them make the safest decision. The plan B should be as close to this plan as possible. Mr. Dean said he thought the plan B should be similar to what the SAU is doing. Mr. Papakonstantis said the Governor was able to issue Executive Orders back in March on how to hold meetings virtually. A 4-1 majority of the Board voted for a virtual meeting that preserves democracy, and barring any objection from Attorney Mitchell, the Governor will be served a letter from this Board pleading with him to issue an Executive Order to this effect. If they are told they can't do this, they need to look at a Deliberative Session that is safe, even if that means that everyone wants to be outside. Attorney Mitchell asked to meet with Mr. Dean, Mr. Scafidi, and Ms. Nawoichyk the next day to discuss how to move forward.

b. Public Hearings: FY21 Budget, Bonds, Warrant Articles

Mr. Papakonstantis asked for a motion to open the bond hearings.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to open the bond hearings. Ms. Oliff seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 3, on the Salem Street Area Utility Replacements:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,100,000 for the design and construction of water, sewer, drainage, road and utility improvements in the Salem Street area, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$5,100,000 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; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain, and accept federal, state, or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project. Debt service will be paid from the General Fund, Water Fund, and Sewer Fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: assuming 10 year bond at .86% interest: .05/1,000, \$5/100,000 of assessed property value). Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none. He asked for Board discussion or comment, but there was none. He asked the Board to vote to recommend article 3, and they approved the article unanimously.

Mr. Papakonstantis read an unnumbered article regarding the bond for the Solar Array Landfill Property:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,617,629 for the purpose of constructing a solar array on Town owned land described as Map 98 Lot 3, and Tax Map 100 Lot 4, and authorize the issuance of not more than \$3,617,629 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; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain, and accept federal, state, or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project. Debt service will be paid by revenues generated by selling power and Renewable Energy Certificates. (Estimate Tax Impact: none, assuming revenues and assuming a 20 year bond at 1.67% interest). Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance.

He asked for public comment, but there was none. He asked for Board discussion or comment, and Ms. Gilman said this is a great opportunity and meets a town goal. She is very encouraged that it's come before them. Mr. Papakonstantis said it's an exciting initiative. He's in favor for the town to purchase, as is written in the article. In the year that Mr. Sharples has done the work of the Sustainability Coordinator, he's done a lot of great work. Mr. Papakonstantis asked the Board to vote to recommend the unnumbered article, and they approved the article unanimously.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 4 on the bond for the Wastewater Sludge Removal:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,600,000 for the purpose of removing sludge from the wastewater lagoons at 13 Newfields Road, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$2,600,000 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; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain, and accept federal, state, or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project. Debt service will be paid from the Sewer Fund.

Mr. Dean said this will be Article 5 because of the Solar article. Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none. Mr. Papakonstantis asked for Board questions or discussion. Ms. Gilman said the removal of the sludge will gain some land area. Jennifer Perry, the Public Works Director, said it will remove sludge from lagoon 1, which will be trucked offsite. They still have to dewater the sludge from lagoon 2 and truck it off. Eventually could be used for some other purpose, but the ponds will continue to collect water until they decide how to decommission them. Mr. Papakonstantis asked the Board to vote to recommend Article 4, and they approved the article unanimously.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 5 on the bond for Groundwater Source Development:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000,000 for the purpose of developing groundwater sources in the town, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,000,000 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; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain, and accept federal, state, or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project. Debt service will be paid from the Water Fund.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none. Mr. Papakonstantis asked for Board questions or discussion, but there was none.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to recommend article 5 as written. Mr. Browne seconded. In a roll call vote, the Board approved the article unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to close the Bond hearing. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to open the budget hearing, including all other warrant articles. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Bob Kelly, the Chair of the Budget Recommendations Committee, and Kris Weeks and Peter Lennon of the Facilities Committee, were present to discuss the warrant articles.

Mr. Weeks discussed the Facilities Committee's recommendations on the Public Safety Complex and DPW Garage articles. The Committee visited both sites over the summer and spoke to those involved, and both sites demonstrated a need to renovate or create a new space. They would like to see \$150,000 - 200,000 for the next phase of the Public Safety Complex project. They don't recommend the funding for the DPW, as they didn't see a specific scope or proposal for the use of the \$100,000 requested. They would like to see a more specific proposal.

Mr. Kelly said the BRC has had some recent experience with putting money out for a project without a lot of input, and at the end of the preliminary design it was too expensive and few people in town wanted to support it. They want to keep both

processes moving without overcommitting. They're trying to change the dynamic of the BRC; they're working with the Facilities Committee and town staff to generate more of an internal scope of work. They started looking at the Public Works garage project last year, and the BRC was proposing more this year to fine tune the requirements. The town's debt service will go up another 50% in the next three years. All of the proposed projects are good projects, including the Rec proposal of last year, but they need to organize the projects correctly. Mr. Lennon said the recommendation by the Facilities Committee on the Public Safety Complex doesn't propose throwing money at a particular design. They recommend a feasibility study that would provide a preferred option and a good cost estimate, and would allow for robust public input throughout the process.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 7 on the 2021 Operating budget:

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 \$19,891,082. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$19,978,374, 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: .22/1,000 assessed property value, \$22/100,000 assessed property value.

Mr. Dean said the budget is a 1.46% increase over FY20, or \$285,545 increase. The town share is 23% of the total tax levy this year.

The General Fund covers town operations, including General Government, Financial Administration, Human Services, Planning, Parks and Rec, the Library, Debt Service & Capital, and Benefits and Taxes. Police/Fire and DPW make up 70% of the General Fund budget. There's a Library bond payment due 2021, of \$417,166. There's a COA adjustment of 1% for non-union employees in July. The Police contract is a separate warrant article this year. In Benefits, there's a health insurance increase of 2.5% for all plans. There are Retirement increases due to a State retirement system adjustment as of July 2021, up \$148,110. There's an Election decrease in 2021, as there is only one election. Many accounts have been decreased due to a lack of out of state travel. There was a one-time expense for the Assessing software to go to the Cloud. The mosquito contract was renegotiated at a decreased cost. There were increased solid waste costs, and that budget is up \$83,621. They included the Network Administrator position for 8 months. The FY21 paving budget was reduced by \$100,000. Instead of purchasing vehicles in 2021, they're proposing a town-wide vehicle audit.

The General Fund revenue includes motor vehicle registration fees, building permits, blue bag fees, other department income, the Highway Block Grant Aid, Meals and Rooms Tax, and the prior year fund balance, which this year is predicted to be \$800,000 to apply against the budget. The total revenues applicable to budget FY21 are \$7,374,904. The total taxes raised would be \$12,516,178, as opposed to the FY20 budget of \$11,905,608.

Mr. Dean then discussed the default General Fund budget of \$19,978,374, which is actually \$87,292 more than the proposed budget. This is due to having the budget for contracts stay at the prior year number, even if the contract has decreased, as with the mosquito contract. With the Overlay and Veterans Credits, the proposed Operating Budget tax impact would be \$5.84/1,000, while the Default Budget Tax Impact would be \$5.91/1,000.

The proposed Water Fund Budget is a \$4,054,184, a 14.11% increase over FY20. The Default Budget is \$3,633,083, a 2.26% increase over FY20. The increase will not have a water rate impact. In the Sewer Fund, the proposed budget is \$7,686,605, a 8.73% decrease from FY20, or \$671,241 less. The Default Budget is \$6,942,533, a 9.68% decrease from FY20.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none. He asked for the Board discussion/comment, but there was none.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to recommend Article 7 on the Operating Budget. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 8, on the Water Fund 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 \$4,054,184. Should this article be defeated, the water default budget shall be \$3,633,083, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none. He asked for the Board discussion/comment, but there was none.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to recommend Article 8 on the Water Fund Budget. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 9, on the Sewer Fund 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 \$7,015,364. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$6,942,533, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none. He asked for Board discussion, but there was none.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to recommend Article 9 on the Sewer Fund Budget. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 10, on the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement:

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Select Board and the Exeter Police Association, which calls for the following increased salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels: Year, FY21; Estimated Salary/Benefits Increase: \$26,459. And further, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$26,469 for the 2021 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none. He asked for Board discussion, but there was none.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to recommend Article 10 on the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement. Ms. Oliff seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 11, on the Kingston Road Shoulders:
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,130,000 for the purpose of constructing widened shoulders (bike paths) and sidewalks on Kingston Road, with \$235,653 to come for the Town's unassigned fund balance, \$744,347 through an NHDOT grant, and \$150,000 previously transferred from the Arterial Shoulders capital reserve fund; and furthermore, to authorize the Select Board to accept any state, federal, and other grants and gifts related to the project. This article will not become effective unless the NHDOT grant is awarded to the Town. This article will not impact the tax rate. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or December 31, 2025, whichever is later.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none. He asked for Board discussion, but there was none.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to recommend Article 11 on the Kingston Road Shoulders. Ms. Oliff seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 12, on the Public Works Facility Garage Design:
To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of \$100,000, for the purpose of design work toward a new garage at the Public Works Complex on Newfields Road. This sum to come from general taxation (\$60,000), Water Funds (\$20,000), and Sewer Funds (\$20,000). (Estimated Tax Impact: .027/1,000, \$2.73/100,000 assessed property value).

Ms. Perry said they've been working on the beginnings of the Needs Assessment for this facility, which they received at the end of last year. They're looking to develop the next recommendation of work that should be done. The town has acquired 4.7 acres abutting the DPW yard, but they haven't done any analysis on how developable it is, which they will need to move forward. They must look at existing needs and what their needs will be over the next decade. Mr. Browne asked if that investigation required expenditure. Ms. Perry said discussions of the Master Plan can be done locally; discussions with the architects should happen as well, but that doesn't need to happen in 2021. Mr. Kelly said they don't need to fund it at the full amount, but they should keep the momentum going on this project.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.

Ms. Cowan said she is wary of delaying projects and paying more later, but she's also thinking of the length of Deliberative Session and wanting to avoid conflict there. Peter Lennon said there's a need not to put a significant amount of money into this warrant article, as they don't have a decent enough handle on what they need to do to solve the DPW's facility problems. This project will be delayed until FY2023 either way. If they want to maintain momentum, they still shouldn't put in more than \$25,000. Mr. Papakonstantis asked if the vote from the BRC was unanimous, and Mr. Kelly said it was. Mr. Kelly added that both projects (Police/Fire and Public Works) are both reasonable, but not developed enough to go into the CIP. They're trying to provide enough to keep the projects moving. Mr. Lennon said there wasn't an analytical basis for the \$100,000 cost. By doing a real feasibility study, they can justify asking the voters for \$10M or \$15M. Mr. Browne said they should send Article 12 back to the Town Manager and the Facilities Committee to provide documentation on what they would be spending this on in the coming year.

MOTION: Mr. Browne moved to not recommend Article 12 for the warrant. Ms. Oliff seconded. Ms. Cowan said the Budget Recommendations Committee vetted this in a transparent process. They've been talking about this for years, and they know they'll have to do something. Her objection is that she doesn't think there's enough money post-Covid. Mr. Browne said the BRC is charged to look at the budget, not specifically at Facilities projects. By a roll call vote, all were in favor. The article will be pulled from the warrant.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 13, on the Public Safety Complex:

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of \$100,000, for the purpose of evaluating alternatives for a new public safety complex. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .046/1,000, \$4.55/100,000 assessed property value.)

Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none. Chief Wilking said they had a productive meeting with the Facilities Committee, and the proposed \$400,000 was reduced to \$100,000 as a placeholder for design feasibility and analysis of alternatives. They could do a feasibility study by September to have a discussion with the BRC this Fall.

MOTION: Mr. Browne moved to recommend the article as written. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 14 on the appropriation to the Capital Reserve Fund for Parks Improvements:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the Parks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .046/1,000, \$4.55/100,000 assessed property value.)

Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none. He asked for Board discussion, but there was none.

MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to recommend Article 14. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 15 on the appropriation to the Sick Leave Trust Fund:

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the Sick Leave Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation).

He asked for public comment, but there was none. He asked for Board discussion, but there was none.

MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to recommend Article 15. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 16 on the appropriation to the Conservation Fund:

To see if the town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of \$50,000 to the Conservation Fund established pursuant to RSA 36-A:5. These funds will be used for purposes consistent with the Conservation Fund including the purchase of interests in real property to be held for conservation purposes. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .023/1,000, \$4,55/100,000 assessed property value.)

He asked for public comment, but there was none. He asked for Board discussion, but there was none.

MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to recommend Article 16. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 17 on the appropriation to the Snow and Ice Fund:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Snow and Ice Deficit Non-Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation).

Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none. He asked for Board discussion. Ms. Gilman asked how much they have in the fund; Doreen Chester, the Finance Director, said \$53,073.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to recommend Article 17. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 18 on the Stewart Park Project Deficit:
To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$105,794 from the town's current non-spendable general fund balance to the capital projects fund balance to eliminate the Stewart Park Seawall project deficit from 2005. This project has been completed. This article will not impact the unassigned fund balance.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none. He asked for Board discussion, but there was none.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to recommend Article 18. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 19 on the appropriation to the Swasey Parkway Fund:

To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,300 to be added to the Swasey Parkway Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. This amount is equivalent to the amount of permit fees collected during the past year for use of the Swasey Parkway.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none. He asked for Board discussion. Ms. Gilman asked for more information, and Mr. Dean said this is the trust fund with permit fees from Swasey Parkway; DRA said there has to be a warrant article every year for this appropriation into the fund.

MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to recommend Article 19. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MOTION: Mr. Browne moved to close the hearing on budget and warrant articles. Ms. Oliff seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

6. Regular Business

a. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits and Exemptions

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve Veterans Credits in the amount of \$500 for 74/28, 68/6/611, 90/18/39, 63/79, 19/16/27, and 69/3/9. Ms. Cowan seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a tax abatement for 70/99 in the amount of \$225.17 representing the year 2019. Ms. Cowan seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve an abatement for 70/99 in the amount of \$237.55 which represents the year 2020. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Ms. Gilman said there is no dollar amount to the Solar Exemption, and suggested they modify the policy. Mr. Dean said they could discuss it at the Energy Committee. Mr. Papakonstantis said it's come up in the Sustainability Advisory Committee as well.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Solar Exemption for 64/22/1, 62/57, 11/18/16, 75/25, and 101/5. Ms. Oliff seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

b. Permits & Approvals

There were no permits or approvals at this meeting.

c. Town Manager's Report

i. Mr. Dean had no report.

- d. Select Board Committee Reports
 - i. Ms. Gilman said the Heritage Commission is working through the Park Street Heritage Neighborhood proposal. They prepared a flyer and are planning a public meeting in late February.
 - ii. Mr. Browne had a Communications Committee meeting, working groups to come up with different plans for social media, television, etc. The Police Stakeholders Committee, create a survey on peoples' perceptions of the Police.
 - iii. Ms. Oliff had a Housing Committee meeting, where they were following up on the Small House Workforce Affordable Housing project by surveying surrounding towns. She wasn't able to attend the Swasey Parkway Committee meeting. Ms. Gilman asked about the African American Memorial project, and Ms. Oliff said the Trustees were not fully in favor of having it within the park. Nothing formal has been approved. Mr. Papakonstantis said Renay Allen is not yet ready to come before the Select Board with her proposal, but knows she is welcome.
 - iv. Ms. Cowan had a Planning Board meeting, where they approved a parking exemption for a project that is going forward. There was also an additional exemption for a Brian Griset project that they asked for additional time on.
 - v. Mr. Papakonstantis has a River Advisory Committee meeting Thursday.
- e. Correspondence
 - i. There was no correspondence discussed at this meeting.
- 7. Review Board Calendar
 - a. The next meeting is January 25th, 2021; following meetings are February 8 and 22nd.
- 8. Non-Public Session
 - a. There was no non-public session at this meeting.
- 9. Adjournment

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to adjourn. Ms. Oliff seconded. In a roll call vote, all were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bartell
Recording Secretary