

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD, NH**  
**MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
George B. White Building  
8 Raymond Rd. Deerfield, NH 03037

**January 9, 2020**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order** Meeting called to order by Chair at 7:02 PM

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

In Attendance: Bill Von Hassel, John Dubiansky, Ken Heckman (School Board rep attending in place of Zach Langlois), Herman Pretorius, Alden Dill, JoAnne Bradbury, Bonnie Beabein, Phil Bilodeau, Andrew Robertson  
Excused Absences: Zach Langlois, Terry Roy  
Unexcused Absence: Bradley Briggs

Mr. Pretorius apologized that this meeting would not be a Public Hearing as planned. The information regarding Public Hearing was not posted correctly. Public Hearing is rescheduled for Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 9:00 AM.

**Warrant Articles**

Mr. Robertson presented the Warrant Articles for the Town.

**Warrant Article 1**

Mr. Robertson made a motion for the MBC to vote to recommend the town's operating budget in the amount of \$4,300,001.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dill. Mr. Robertson noted that if defeated, the default operating budget will be \$3,960,253.00.

**Vote:** 8 Yay, 1 Nay, 0 Abstain

**Warrant Article 2**

**Motion:** Mr. Robertson

**2nd:** Mr. Dubiansky

Mr. Robertson explained this warrant article is to raise and appropriate \$200,000.00 for the repair and reconstruction of existing roads in Deerfield.

**Vote:** 9 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

### **Warrant Article 3**

**Motion:** Mr. Robertson

**2nd:** Mr. Dubiansky

Mr. Robertson stated this warrant is to place up to \$65,000.00 in the previously established Winter Road Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. No amount to be raised from taxation, said funds to come from unassigned fund balance, with a max cap of \$100,000.00 on the fund.

**Vote:** 9 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

### **Warrant Article 4**

**Motion:** Mr. Robertson

**2nd:** Mr. Dill

Mr. Robertson stated this warrant is to raise and appropriate \$63,800.00 for the purchase of a 2020/2021 Chevrolet Tahoe for the Fire Department Command Vehicle. Mr. Robertson stated that this was not recommended by the BOS, that it had been discussed but no action taken at this time. One member of the BOS feels a Ford F150 would be better, another recommended a Ford Explorer. There was discussion about the cost of the Tahoe and the cost to outfit the Tahoe. Mr. Pretorius asked if this would be a purchase or a lease. Mr. Robertson said a purchase and to keep in mind that the current Fire Department Command Vehicle is 16+ years old and did not pass inspection without having several thousand dollars of repairs done this year.

**Vote:** 7 Yay, 1 Nay, 1 Abstain

### **Warrant Article 5**

**Motion:** Mr. Robertson

**2nd:** Mr. Bilodeau

Mr. Robertson explained this warrant is to raise and appropriate the amount of \$58,813.00 for this hiring of a full time children's librarian at the Philbrick-James Library. Ms. Jane Miller spoke for the library trustees, stating that there is a lot of demand for children's programs at the library and that they would be replacing a person who had left.

**Vote:** 9 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

### **Warrant Article 6**

**Motion:** Mr. Robertson

**2nd:** Mr. Dill

Mr. Robertson stated that this warrant is for the establishment of a Police Department Building Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of having engineering and architectural plans prepared for a new Police Department building and for dissemination of information relative to planning and design of such building and to raise and appropriate up to \$50,000.00 to put into the fund, further to name BOS as agents to expend from said fund. He stated that the BOS feel there is a dire need for a Police Department. Mr. Pretorius asked if the plan was still to build a Safety Complex. Mr. Robertson said the Police Department is the priority at this time and they are focusing on that first. Mr. Dubiansky asked if there is a chance of making this a surplus funded warrant to increase the chance of it passing. Mr. Robertson

said there had been no discussion of that but that it was a good idea and that he will bring it to the BOS.

**Vote:** 8 Yay, 1 Nay, 0 Abstain

#### **Warrant Article 7**

**Motion:** Mr. Robertson

**2nd:** Mr. Dill

Mr. Robertson stated this warrant is to raise and appropriate \$50,000.00 to be placed in the previously established Fire Apparatus & Equipment Fund. Mr. Dill asked what the current balance is in the fund. Mr. Harrington answered \$276,687.00 as of 9/30/2019. Mr. Dubiansky commented that would buy a third of a fire truck. Mr. Heckman asked if the command vehicle could be purchased from this fund. Mr. Robertson answered if there had not been a separate warrant article for the command vehicle, yes, but since there is a separate warrant article for the command vehicle, if that is defeated no money can be spent for that purchase.

**Vote:** 9 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

#### **Warrant Article 8**

**Motion:** Mr. Robertson

**2nd:** Ms. Bradbury

Mr. Robertson explained this warrant is to raise and appropriate the amount of \$40,000.00 for the purpose of providing COLA increases to town employees in the amount of 2%.

**Vote:** 8 Yay, 0 Nay, 1 Abstain

#### **Warrant Article 9**

**Motion:** Mr. Robertson

**2nd:** Mr. Dill

Mr. Robertson stated this warrant is to establish a Fire Emergency Water Supply Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19, for the maintenance and repair to existing water holes & cisterns, with the intent to install future cisterns, and to raise and appropriate \$32,000.00 to put into said fund, with this amount coming from the unassigned fund balance, no amount to be raised by taxation, further to name the BOS as agents to expend from this fund.

**Vote:** 9 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

#### **Warrant Article 10**

**Motion:** Mr. Robertson

**2nd:** Ms. Beaubien

Mr. Robertson explained this warrant is to raise and appropriate the amount of \$30,000.00 to update the Town of Deerfield's Master Plan in accordance with RSA 674:1-4 & RSA 675:6. He explained that it is important to keep the Master Plan updated for receiving federal aid and assistance. Mr. Von Hassel asked how old the current Master Plan is. Mr. Robertson said we are well past the date to update. Mr. Harrington replied the last update on the town's website was in 2009 and it is recommended to update every 5 years.

**Vote:** 7 Yay, 1 Nay, 1 Abstain

**Warrant Article 11**

**Motion:** Mr. Robertson

**2nd:** Mr. Dubiansky

Mr. Robertson stated this warrant is to raise and appropriate up to \$25,000.00 to be placed in the previously established Municipal Government Buildings Infrastructure Expendable Trust Fund, funds to come from unassigned fund balance, no amount to be raised from taxation.

**Vote:** 9 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

**Warrant Article 12**

**Motion:** Mr. Robertson

**2nd:** Ms. Beaubien

Mr. Robertson explained this warrant is to raise and appropriate \$20,000.00 to be placed in the previously established Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Expendable Trust Fund. No amount to be raised from taxation, said funds to come from unassigned fund balance.

**Vote:** 8 Yay, 1 Nay, 0 Abstain

**Warrant Article 13**

**Motion:** Mr. Robertson

**2nd:** Ms. Beaubien

Mr. Robertson explained this warrant is to raise and appropriate \$15,100.00 for town field maintenance, playground mulching & fencing at the Hartford Brook Playground and tree trimming in the area which holds Parks & Rec activities at the GBW. A total of \$7550.00 will come from the Parks & Rec Revolving Fund, remainder to come from taxes.

**Vote:** 8 Yay, 1 Nay, 0 Abstain

**Warrant Article 14**

**Motion:** Mr. Robertson

**2nd:** Mr. Dill

Mr. Robertson explained this warrant is to raise and appropriate \$10,000.00 to be placed in the previously established Rescue Vehicles & Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

**Vote:** 9 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

**Warrant Article 15**

**Motion:** Mr. Robertson

**2nd:** Mr. Dill

Mr. Robertson stated that this warrant is to raise and appropriate \$8000.00 to be used by the Northwood Lake Watershed Association to control milfoil in Northwood Lake.

**Vote:** 9 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

### **Warrant Article 16**

**Motion:** Mr. Robertson

**2nd:** Ms. Beaubien

Mr. Robertson stated that this warrant is to raise and appropriate \$2500.00 to be used by the Pleasant Lake Preservation Association to increase the number of hours for trained attendants to provide courtesy boat inspections at the public access ramp on Gulf Road to prevent the introduction and spread of exotic water plants like variable milfoil and aquatic nuisance animals like zebra mussels from entering Pleasant Lake.

**Vote:** 9 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

### **Warrant Article 17**

**Motion:** Mr. Robertson

**2nd:** Mr. Dill

Mr. Robertson explained that this warrant is to see if the town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:35, allowing the maximum veteran tax credit for service connected total disability in the amount of \$4000.00.

**Vote:** 9 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

### **Warrant Article 18**

**Motion:** Mr. Robertson

**2nd:** Ms. Beaubien

Mr. Robertson explained this warrant is to see if the town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28, allowing the maximum veteran tax credit in the amount of \$750.00.

**Vote:** 9 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

### **School**

Mr. Heckman presented the Warrant Articles for the School Board.

### **Warrant Article 1**

**Motion:** Mr. Heckman made a motion that the MBC vote to recommend the operating budget for the school in the amount of \$14,394,363.00. The default budget, should the warrant article be defeated, is \$14,162,505.00.

**2nd:** Mr. Dill

**Vote to Recommend:** 8 Yay, 1 Nay, 0 Abstain

Mr. Von Hassel would like to add the word "school" to wording in regard to the tax rate.

### **Warrant Article 2**

**Motion:** Mr. Heckman

**2nd:** Ms. Beaubien

Mr. Heckman stated this warrant is to see if the Deerfield School District shall vote to approve the cost items set forth in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Deerfield School Board and the Deerfield Para Educator Association for the 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23,

2023/24 fiscal years, which calls for the following estimated increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

2020/21	\$37,821.00
2021/22	\$37,503.00
2022/23	\$34,497.00
2023/24	\$11,587.00

and further to raise and appropriate the amount of \$37,821.00 for the 2020/21 fiscal year, such sum represents the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.

**Vote to Recommend:** 8 Yay, 1 Nay, 0 Abstain

### **Warrant Article 3**

The MBC does not vote on this Warrant Article and moved on to Warrant Article 4.

### **Warrant Article 4**

**Motion:** Mr. Heckman

**2nd:** Mr. Dill

Mr. Heckman stated this warrant is to establish a Deerfield Community School Addition Capital Reserve Fund, under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of studying, designing, planning, and partially funding the construction and furnishing of an addition to Deerfield Community School, and to raise and appropriate the amount of \$250,000.00 to be placed in this fund, this sum to come from June 30, 2020 unreserved fund balance, available for transfer on July 1, 2020, further to name the School Board members as agents to expend from said fund. Majority vote required, no amount to be raised from additional taxation.

There was discussion by MBC members regarding the language used in this warrant article.

Mr. Dill asked what if a new building is necessary, instead of an addition to the existing building.

Mr. Heckman said that a lot of the \$250,000 would be used up in determining that with engineering and design costs. If it were found that an addition wouldn't work, the School Board would take action to reallocate funds. Mr. Von Hassel said funds from a trust fund couldn't be spent other than for the original intent. Mr. Dill asked if the language is changeable by Warrant Article at a later time. Mr. Von Hassel said it is pretty much set in stone once a trust is established. Mr. Dill said he likes this idea but doesn't want to get stuck with only an addition and then need to expand elsewhere. Mr. Robertson said the MBC could recommend that the School Board change the language but that it is their Warrant Article. Mr. Pretorius then called for a vote to recommend, with the recommendation that the School Board change the language to something broader.

**Vote to Recommend (with recommendation from MBC to School Board for broader language):** 8 Yay, 1 Nay, 0 Abstain

**Approval of Minutes for 12/17/2019:**

**Motion:** Mr. Dill moved to approve as written

**2nd:** Mr. Robertson

Ms. Bradbury noted one margin spacing error on page 3 to be corrected.

**Vote:** 6 Yay, 0 Nay, 1 Abstain

**Motion Carried**

**Public Comments**

Kevin Verville addressed the MBC, stated that he is surprised that there was no warrant article for an elevator for the town hall this year. Mr. Robertson answered that the Heritage Commission is rethinking their approach for funding at this time. Mr. Verville then said it was an interesting discussion about the Fire Department Command Vehicle, only because there was a warrant to redo the gym floor a short couple of years ago that failed at the ballot box and the School Board is in possession of a legal opinion or at least commentary from legal staff that they can use other funds to accomplish that, failed warrant article notwithstanding. Mr. Verville stated that he did some research and the Minneapolis Federal Reserve estimates the 2019 inflation rate to be 1.8%. He said he then went on the US Bureau of Labor Statistics New England Price Index and they are estimating the inflation rate to be 1.9%. The municipal budget increases are projected at 9.72%. Mr. Verville says this is a heavy lift and that there is still time for MBC meetings and he encourages the members to go back through previous ballot results to see what kind of increases are likely to pass at the ballot box. Mr. Verville went on to say that the real reason he came was to discuss that he had been chastised by many members of the MBC during his tenure to resist the desire to effect policy change through the budgeting process. Mr. Verville said that some say policy change is not the playground of the budget committee and that oddly enough, the same members that often guarded him against taking such actions, as well as others, have voted to put \$1.00 in the Full Time Firefighter line. Mr. Verville said this was not asked for by the fire chief or the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Verville finds it very interesting that now we've got these same members trying to effect policy change through budgeting. He said in fact it goes deeper than that because he has been asking for \$100,000.00 last many years to put into the highway fund to keep up with road maintenance. He said in fact, there were majority votes on the budget committee to support that amendment to the budget that was then retracted, called for another vote, and defeated. The reason it was defeated, Mr. Verville said, was members said the highway agent went in and said if the money was put in, he wouldn't spend it. Mr. Verville said now, the Fire Chief has said he doesn't want \$1.00, the Board of Selectmen did not recommend it, however Mr. Verville feels we won't find out because he doesn't think the budget has a chance of passing because of almost 10% increases. Mr. Verville also said that he feels \$200,000.00 for the highway warrant article is too heavy a lift. He feels this is something that should be tackled at a reasonable rate, over an extended period of time. Mr. Verville said that roads have undergone a lengthy period of neglect and are in serious decline but that \$200,000.00 is a very heavy lift. He asked what makes us think if \$100,000.00 would have sunk the budget in previous years, that \$200,000.00 stand

alone has a chance at the ballot box. Mr. Verville said that if no one else does, he intends to make a motion at the deliberative session to reduce that amount to \$100,000.00 to at least give it a fighting chance. Mr. Verville lastly asked if there could be complete packets for the public hearing, that there was no school board budget or default available and usually those are available for the public hearing. Mr. Verville thanked the MBC for their time.

There were no further Public Comments.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Mr. Pretorius

**2nd:** Ms. Bradbury

**Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.**

These minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Tina St. Peter, Recording  
Secretary

Pending approval by the Municipal Budget Committee