

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

January 12, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by Chair at 6:08 PM.

Motion made by Zach Langlois to allow participation by Phil Bilodeau via Zoom, seconded by Mr. Dill. Vote to allow: Yay-9, Nay-1, Abstain-0. Motion passed.

Roll Call: In Attendance - Phil Bilodeau via Zoom, Bonnie Beaubien, JoAnne Bradbury, Joshua Cresswell, Zach Langlois, Jocelyn Messier, Maureen Quinn, Alden Dill, Terry Roy, Kevin Verville, Bill Von Hassel. No absences.

Review of School Warrant Articles and Bond Documents:

Review of Deerfield Community School Building Expansion Project proposal by Mr. Langlois and Jeff Kelley. Also present to answer questions were Lance Whitehead and Jay Doherty of LBA and Keith (last name inaudible in recording) from BPS. Mr. Whitehead provided information about systems at DCS that are out of code and that the space at DCS is not in compliance with current standards from the Dept of Education. The repairs/renovations needed without adding any improvement are estimated to cost around \$20M. The proposed solution is an addition that will bring all systems and spaces up to code and to standard, and also will provide improvements to the learning experience at DCS including, as well as a proposed community center space at DCS. Amber Wheeler explained the bond process.

Ms. Bradbury made a motion to recess the meeting at 7:10 PM to go into the Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Langlois. Vote to recess was unanimous. Motion passed.

The MBC continued the meeting after the conclusion of the Public Hearing.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Ms. Beaubien to accept minutes from 1/4/22 meeting as written, seconded by Ms. Bradbury. Vote: Yay-7, Nay-0, Abstain-4. Motion passed.

Recommendation of Town Warrant Articles:

1. Shall the Town of Deerfield 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 the vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein totaling \$4,664,277? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$4,122,731, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Deerfield or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13X and XVI, to take up the issue of the revised operating budget only.

MBC Recommendation: Yay-7, Nay-4, Abstain-0

2. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 for the purpose of repair and/or reconstruction of existing roads and associated drainage improvements? Shall the Town further authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept any and all State Aid or other revenue source that may become available for this work? The funds will be used for the improvement, reconstruction, maintenance, crack sealing, engineering of roads and tree removals as needed. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation as per RSA 32:7, VI, and will not lapse until December 31, 2025.

MBC Recommendation: Yay-11, Nay-0, Abstain-0

3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$95,000 to be placed in the previously established Police Department Building Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of having engineering and architectural plans prepared for a new Police Department building and for the dissemination of information relative to the planning and design of such building.

MBC Recommendation: Yay-11, Nay-0, Abstain-0

4. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Dowst-Cate Cemetery Expansion Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19a, for the purpose of expanding the existing Dowst-Cate Cemetery to accommodate the town's future burial needs, and to raise and appropriate \$80,000 to put in the fund. Cemetery Trustees to be named as agents to expend from the fund.

MBC Recommendation: Yay-11, Nay-0, Abstain-0

5. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Municipal Cemetery Restoration Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19a, for the purpose of restoring neglected town-owned cemeteries to a point where they can be easily maintained by the town going forward, and to raise and appropriate \$80,000 to put in the fund. Cemetery Trustees to be named as agents to expend from the fund.

MBC Recommendation: Yay-11, Nay-0, Abstain-0

6. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$77,000, which includes additional wages and required benefits, for the purpose of providing cost of living raises to Town employees in the amount of 3.5%.

MBC Recommendation: Yay-10, Nay-1, Abstain-0

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be placed in the previously established Fire Apparatus and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

MBC Recommendation: Yay-11, Nay-0, Abstain-0

8. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000 to establish the Cemetery General Maintenance Expendable Reserve Fund, with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. Pursuant to RSA 31:19-a and RSA 289-2-a, all future proceeds received from the sale of cemetery lots in Deerfield cemeteries and any interest gained thereon will be deposited therein for the maintenance of cemeteries, with the Cemetery Trustees named as agents to expend from the fund. No amount to be raised from taxation.

MBC Recommendation: Yay-11, Nay-0, Abstain-0

9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$25, 000 to be placed in the previously established Municipal Government Buildings Infrastructure Expendable Trust Fund said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation.

MBC Recommendation: Yay-11, Nay-0, Abstain-0

10. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Recreational Facility Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of executing general town field/court maintenance upkeep and to maintain existing playgrounds athletic fields, athletic courts, and the surrounding areas, and to raise and appropriate \$25,000 to put in the fund, with this amount to come from the unassigned fund balance, further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. No amount to be raised from taxation.

MBC Recommendation: Yay-9, Nay-2, Abstain-0

11. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,318, which represents an equity pay adjustment for both the Town Clerk/Tax Collector and the Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector and increasing the salary line from \$82,406.00 to \$99,100.00 resulting in the Clerk/Collector base salary equal to \$58,000 and the Deputy base salary equal to \$41,000 plus combined payroll taxes of \$3,624.26. The purpose is to bring both positions' wages to comparable standards and should not be confused with merit raises. Should this article pass, it would only be funded in the event that the 2022 Operating Budget fails to pass. These adjustments will be effective January 1, 2022.

MBC Recommendation: Yay-11, Nay-0, Abstain-0

12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be placed in the previously established Fire Department Vehicle Equipment Expendable Trust Fund, said fund to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation.

MBC Recommendation: Yay-11, Nay-0, Abstain-0

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to be used to purchase a utility vehicle for Deerfield Parks and Recreation. A total of \$5000 will be spent from the Parks & Recreation revolving fund, with remaining amount to come from taxes.

MBC Recommendation: Yay-7, Nay-3, Abstain-1

14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be placed in the previously established Rescue Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

MBC Recommendation: Yay-11, Nay-0, Abstain-0

15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8000 to be used by Northwood Lake Watershed Association to control the milfoil in Northwood Lake.

MBC Recommendation: Yay-11, Nay-0, Abstain-0

16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2500 to be used by the Pleasant Lake Preservation Association to increase the number of hours for trained attendants to provide courtesy boat inspection at the public boat access ramp on Gulf Road to prevent the introduction and spread of exotic plants like variable milfoil and aquatic nuisance animals like zebra mussels from entering Pleasant Lake.

MBC Recommendation: Yay-11, Nay-0, Abstain-0

Recommendation of School Board Warrant Articles:

1. Shall the Deerfield School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,500,000 for the purposes of financing the addition and the completion of the renovation of Deerfield Community School and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$45,500,000 of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33); to authorize the School Board to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; to authorize the School Board to apply for, obtain, accept and expend any and all Federal, State, or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project, and to comply with all laws applicable to said project, and to authorize the School Board to take any and all action necessary in connection therewith or to pass any other votes relative thereto and further raise and appropriate an additional sum of \$1,137,500 for the first year's interest payment on said bond or notes. ($\frac{3}{5}$ ballot vote required.)

MBC Recommendation: Yay-7, Nay-3, Abstain-1

2. Shall the Deerfield School District, if Article #1 passes, vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,430,000 for the purpose of adding a Community Recreation Center to Deerfield Community School and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$8,430,000 of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33); to authorize the School Board to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; to authorize the School Board to apply for, obtain, accept, and expend any and all Federal, State or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project, and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; and to authorize the School Board to take any and all action necessary in connection therewith or to pass any other vote relative thereto, and further to raise and appropriate an additional sum of \$210,000 for the first year's interest payment on said bond or note. ($\frac{3}{5}$ ballot vote required.)

MBC Recommendation: Yay-5, Nay-6, Abstain-0

3. Shall the Deerfield School District 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 \$15,425,609? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$15,270,438, which is the same as last year; 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.

MBC Recommendation: Yay-7, Nay-4, Abstain-0

4. Shall the Deerfield School District, if Article #1 fails, vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$400,000 from the June 30, 2022 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2022, to be added to the School Facilities Repair Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of school building repair at Deerfield Community School? (NO AMOUNT WILL BE RAISED FROM FY 2022/23 TAXATION) This article is contingent upon the failure of Article #1; if Article #1 passes, this warrant article shall not take effect. Majority vote required.

MBC Recommendation: Yay-11, Nay-0, Abstain-0

5. Shall the Deerfield School District, if Article #1 passes, vote to discontinue the Facility Paving Plan Expendable Trust Fund created in March 2014? Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the District's general fund. This article is contingent upon the passage of Article #1; if Article #1 fails, this warrant shall not take effect. Majority vote required.

MBC Recommendation: Yay-6, Nay-4, Abstain-1

Motion was made by Mr. Langlois to adjourn meeting.

Meeting adjourned by Chair at 9:14 PM.

These minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by
 Tina St. Peter, Recording Secretary
 Pending approval by the Municipal Budget Committee