

Town of Tamworth
Board of Selectmen's Meeting for the
2011 Town Budget and Warrant Public Hearing
Town Office
February 3, 2011

Members present John Roberts, William Farnum, and Robert Abraham

Others present Town Administrator Cassandra Pearce, David and Jim Bowles, Pat and David Farley, David Gaudet, David Haskell, David Little, John Wheeler, Ruth Timchet, Rosiland Gray, Sandra Flannagan, Anne Abear and other members of the public.

Chairman Roberts opened the meeting and public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

The Board reviewed the different handouts available which included the 2011 proposed warrant, 2011 budget proposal, 2011 revenue proposal, and the proposed groundwater protection ordinance that will be voted on during the 2011 Town Meeting.

Each article was read as written below.

ARTICLE #1 To elect all necessary **Town Officers**, which appear on the official Town ballot for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE #2 Are you in favor of the adoption of the **Tamworth Groundwater Protection Ordinance** as proposed by the planning board? (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE #3 Shall we adopt the provisions of **RSA 466:30-a**, which makes it **unlawful for any dog to run at large**, except when accompanied by the owner or custodian, and when used for hunting, herding, supervised competition and exhibition or training for such? (Majority Vote Required)

Members of the audience inquired about this article and the current leash law. It was announced that a public hearing regarding this article will be held on 2/10/2011 at 6:00 p.m.

ARTICLE #4 (By Petition) Are you in favor of **abolishing the Planning Board**, as proposed by petition of the voters of this town? (Majority Vote Required)

Mr. Gaudet inquired about the number of votes taken by the planning board for this petition recommendation. Mr. Little advised that the chairman of the planning board does not cast a vote unless there is a tie of the members.

ARTICLE #5 (By Petition) Are you in favor of **abolishing the Conservation Commission**, as proposed by petition of the voters of this town? (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE #6 To see if the Town will adopt the provisions of **RSA 80:52-a**, until rescinded, allowing for the **prepayment of property taxes**. (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE #7 Are you in favor of **repealing warrant article #47 of the March 1984 Town Meeting**, relating to excavation as it is outdated and is superseded by the **Earth Excavation**

Regulations adopted by the Planning Board on October 13, 2010? (Majority Vote Required)

Mr. Bowles inquired what the new regulation entailed and advised he was not aware of the new ordinance. Mr. Little advised the planning board held 5 open meetings regarding this new regulation. It was advised that the purpose of this new ordinance is for any new excavation companies in Town to follow RSA 155-E. All excavation pits prior to 1989 are considered grandfathered. There is one property in Town who has received a permit under the new ordinance.

ARTICLE #8

To see if the Town will vote to **discontinue the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund** created in 2002. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the Town of Tamworth's general fund. (Majority Vote Required)

Mrs. Pearce advised that as of 12/31/2010 this account had \$31,050. Inquiries were made as to why this reserve was being discontinued and what the plan was for future revaluation of properties. Mr. Roberts advised that at this time revaluations have been placed on hold by the Board; therefore, the reason the funds are being withdrawn.

ARTICLE #9

To see if the Town will vote to **discontinue the Recycling Capital Reserve Fund** created in 1993. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the Town of Tamworth's general fund. (Majority Vote Required)

Mrs. Pearce advised that as of 12/31/2010 this account had \$15,763.

ARTICLE #10

To see if the Town will vote to **discontinue the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund** created in 1970. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the Town of Tamworth's general fund. (Majority Vote Required)

Mrs. Pearce advised that as of 12/31/2010 this account had \$1,448.

Mr. Bowles, inquired about the capital improvement committee's plan which made the recommendation to close out the capital reserves and his concerns that even though this Board accepted the plan, what's to say that the future Board will accept the plan? If changes happen on the Select board, it is possible that the new Board could disagree with the plan and the department may not get the funds they need at the time to purchase the equipment. Mr. Bowles expressed a need for the Selectmen to explain this plan on the floor at Town Meeting.

ARTICLE #11

To see if the Town will vote to **discontinue the Fire Department Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund** created in 2003. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the Town of Tamworth's general fund. (Majority Vote Required)

Mrs. Pearce advised that as of 12/31/2010 this account had \$22,109.

ARTICLE #12

To see if the Town will vote to **discontinue the Town Municipal Building Capital Reserve Fund** created in 2008. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the Town of Tamworth's general fund. (Majority Vote Required)

Mrs. Pearce advised that as of 12/31/2010 this account had \$96.

ARTICLE #13

To see if the Town will vote to **discontinue the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund** created in 2005. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the Town of Tamworth's general fund. (Majority Vote Required)

Mrs. Pearce advised that as of 12/31/2010 this account had \$1,170

ARTICLE #14

To see if the Town will vote to **discontinue the Highway Garage Building Capital Reserve Fund** created in 2003. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the Town of Tamworth's general fund. (Majority Vote Required)

Mrs. Pearce advised that as of 12/31/2010 this account had \$1,183

ARTICLE #15

To see if the Town will vote to **discontinue the Heavy Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund** created in 2004. (No funds remain in this reserve). (Majority Vote Required)

Mrs. Pearce advised that as of 12/31/2010 this account had \$0.

ARTICLE #16

To see if the Town will vote to **discontinue the Highway Equipment Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund** created in 2008. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the Town of Tamworth's general fund. (Majority Vote Required)

Mrs. Pearce advised that as of 12/31/2010 this account had \$12,129.

ARTICLE #17

To see if the Town will vote to **discontinue the Highway Paving Capital Reserve Fund** created in 2009. (Majority Vote Required)

Mrs. Pearce advised that as of 12/31/2010 this account had \$0.

ARTICLE#18

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000** for repairs/reconstruction to the **Tamworth Town House** in order to comply with ADA requirements to continue the use of the building. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (3-0-0)

Mr. Gaudet discussed the quote that was received from HE Bergeron. The total cost for repairs for the ADA compliance issues totaled \$17,900 yet this warrant article is asking for \$25,000. The Board explained that the project has to be put out to bid after specs are drawn up. There is additional work to be done at the building that will be done at the same time if this warrant article is approved. If the entire \$25,000 is not utilized, the additional funds will go back to the general fund.

ARTICLE#19

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$32,500** for repairs/maintenance/snow removal etc. for the existing **Sidewalks** (and those proposed to be constructed) for Chocorua Village. (Majority Vote Required)

John Wheeler inquired where the amount being requested came from as the proposed costs seem high. The Board explained that the estimates came from HE Bergeron and include all sidewalks that the Town has in all of the villages, not just Chocorua Village. Maintenance of the sidewalks was discussed. The Board advised that phase I of the project did not require the sidewalks to be maintained. Any future sidewalks built under this project will require the maintenance.

The Board decided to reword the warrant article so that the article is clear to explain that all sidewalks will be maintained. The article will read:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$32,500** for repairs/maintenance/snow removal etc. for the all Town existing **Sidewalks** and those proposed to be constructed for Chocorua Village. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen **does not recommend** this article. (Vote 1-2-0)

ARTICLE #20

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ **760,299** for **General Government Operations:** (Majority Vote Required)

Board of Selectmen	\$ 13,489
Town Administration	\$158,219
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$ 95,769
Election & Registration	\$ 7,075
Treasurer's Expense	\$ 6,423
Data Processing	\$ 15,370
Revaluation of Property	\$ 42,200
Legal Expenses	\$ 35,000
Personnel Administration	\$ 4,000
Planning	\$ 28,996
Zoning	\$ 1,847
Office Building	\$ 39,100
Town House	\$ 13,450
Cemeteries	\$ 29,526
Property Liability Insurance	\$ 30,000
Advertising & Regional Assoc.	\$ 6,749
Emergency Repair Response	\$150,000
Interest/Tax Anticipation Note	\$ 5,000
Debt Service Principal & Interest	\$ 78,086

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote 3-0-0)

Several questions were asked about the increase in this warrant article over the 2010 budget. The Board advised that a new emergency response and repair line equates to \$150,000 of the \$186,000 that this article is up.

The total capital reserve close outs that are projected throughout this warrant are equal to \$84,498. Mr. Farnum discussed a proposal to hold public hearings should any portion of the \$150,000 need to be expended.

Mr. Gaudet advised that he spoke to Mark McConkey of Madison who indicated to him that the amount Tamworth is spending on legal cases is unreasonable. Mr. Roberts advised he believes that the Town of Tamworth may have a few more legal cases pending than the Town of Madison.

Mr. Gaudet wanted it pointed out that the salaries of the Town Office personnel and the town clerk/tax collector were significantly different.

ARTICLE #21

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$ 509,946** for **Public Safety**: (Majority Vote Required)

Police Department	\$234,240
Ambulance Contracted Services	\$ 45,000
Fire Department	\$171,324
Rescue Squad	\$ 44,605
Forest Fires	\$ 5,383
Red Hill Fire Tower	\$ 450
Emergency Management	\$ 1,500
Animal Control	\$ 7,444

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote: 3-0-0)

ARTICLE #22

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,109,005** for **Public Works**: (Majority Vote Required)

Road Maintenance	\$855,196
Street Lights	\$10,500
Well Monitoring & Testing	\$9,000
Transfer Station Operations	\$234,309

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote: 3-0-0)

ARTICLE #23

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$21,483** for **Health and Welfare**: (Majority Vote Required)

General Assistance	\$20,883
Health Officer	\$600

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote: 3-0-0)

ARTICLE #24

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$211,685** for **Culture & Recreation**: (Majority Vote Required)

Parks & Recreation	\$79,803
Swim Program	\$4,800
Cook Memorial Library	\$119,582
Patriotic Purposes/Family Day	\$7,500

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote: 3-0-0)

ARTICLE #25

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$6,210** for **Tamworth Conservation Commission** expenses. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote: 3-0-0)

Mr. Gaudet inquired if this budget amount was above the current funds the Town transfers to the Conservation Commission for land use change tax penalties. The answer was yes, the amount on this article is their operating budget request.

ARTICLE #26

(By Petition). To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,500** to the **Tamworth Outing Club** for the support of the Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth baseball programs. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote: 3-0-0)

ARTICLE #27

(By Petition). To raise and appropriate the sum of **\$6,000** for **Tri-County Community Action** for the purpose of continuing services of the Fuel Assistance Program for the residents of Tamworth. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote: 2-1-0)

ARTICLE #28

(By Petition). To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$7,000** for the **Tamworth Caregivers** for the purpose of continuing services for the residents of Tamworth. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote: 3-0-0)

ARTICLE #29

(By Petition). To see if the Town of Tamworth will appropriate the sum of **\$324**, or transfer same from available funds for support of the **Medication Bridge Assistance Program**. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote: 3-0-0)

ARTICLE #30

(By Petition). To respectfully request that the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,555** in support of **Starting Point** providing advocacy and support to victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote: 3-0-0)

ARTICLE #31

(By Petition). To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,750** to assist the **Mental Health Center**. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote: 3-0-0)

ARTICLE #32

(By Petition). To see if the Town of Tamworth will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000** for the **Tamworth Scholarship Committee, Inc.** (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote: 3-0-0)

ARTICLE #33

(By Petition). To see if the Town of Tamworth will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$4,000** to assist the **Community Food Center**. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote: 3-0-0)

ARTICLE #34

(By Petition). To see if the Town of Tamworth will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,100** for the Early Supports & Services Programs (birth to 3 years) of **Children Unlimited, Inc.** (level funding request). (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote: 3-0-0)

ARTICLE #35

(By Petition). To raise and appropriate the sum of **\$40,000** for **Tamworth Community Nurse Association** for the purpose of continuing services to the residents of Tamworth. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote: 3-0-0)

ARTICLE #36

(By Petition). To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$16,000** to provide meals for the **Tamworth Meals on Wheels** Recipients. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote: 3-0-0)

ARTICLE #37

(By Petition). To see if the Town of Tamworth will raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,972** for the annual support of services provided to the citizens of this community by the **Visiting Nurse Association-Hospice of Southern Carroll County & Vicinity, Inc.** The VNA-Hospice agency has been serving the Town residents for many years, and the Town has consistently supported the VNA-Hospice. This year we are asking for less than what was approved last year.

The voters of the Town recognize that in fiscal year 2010 the VNA-Hospice provided 823 home health care, hospice and/or child health visits to citizens of the Town. They also recognize that the number of town residents with no or limited health insurance have been rising. The VNA-Hospice utilizes the Town's allocation to assist the agency in continuing to provide home care, hospice and child health services to the citizens of the Town who are without adequate insurance coverage to meet the costs of providing the services. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote: 3-0-0)

ARTICLE #38

(By Petition). To see if the Town of Tamworth will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,500** for the support of Tamworth children, ages 5 – 12, using the Out-of-School Hours, School-Aged childcare services at **Bearcamp Valley School and Children's Center (Tamworth Preschool Inc.)**, a non-profit organization. These services include before and after school, vacation weeks and summer programs for Tamworth Children ages 5 – 12. This request does not include any preschool programming. (Majority Vote Required)
\$23,948 is the increase

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote: 3-0-0)

ARTICLE #39

(By Petition). To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$2,500** to assist **Agape Ministries' Food Pantry** in their assistance to Tamworth residents. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote: 2-1-0)

ARTICLE #40

(By Petition). To see if the Town of Tamworth will vote to include in the annual budget the sum of **\$5,000** (five thousand dollars) to support **Life Bridge, Inc.** Life Bridge is a mentoring organization serving students in the Kenneth A. Brett School. Life Bridge supports at-risk students Grades 6 through 8 with one to one mentoring services and offers students healthy group events aimed at helping curb delinquency and risky behaviors. Life Bridge has provided a full-time staff person to oversee the program which currently Life Bridge serves about 30+ families from Tamworth. (Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen **recommends** this article. (Vote: 2-1-0)

ARTICLE #41

To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Mr. Little advised that if the warrant articles pass to abolish the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission, the Selectmen should be prepared to amend the warrant and budget appropriately.

Revenues

The Board reviewed the revenues that are projected for the 2011 year which are down from \$1,035,610 in 2010 to \$889,176. Some of the reasons for the lower projections are: interest collection on property taxes being down, revenue received from motor vehicle registrations and titles being down, and it is projected to have no sale of Town owned property in the 2011 year.

Chairman Roberts closed the public hearing at 7:55 p.m.

Members of the Board went back through each article and voted on whether to recommend or not recommend each article. The votes can be found at the end of each article.

Administrative Items

- *Mr. Roberts moved and Mr. Abraham supported to approve a payroll manifest in the amount of \$17,385.51. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.*
- *Mr. Roberts moved and Mr. Abraham supported to approve an accounts payable manifest in the amount of \$225,514.02. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.*
- *Mr. Roberts moved and Mr. Farnum supported to approve an accounts payable check register in the amount of \$225,514.02. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.*
- *Mrs. Pearce discussed the public hearing to be held for the property address changes within the Tamworth Mobile Home Park. The Board agreed to hold a public hearing on the changes on 2/24/11 beginning at 6:00 p.m.*
- *Mrs. Pearce discussed a concern brought to her by a citizen who had received a bill from the new ambulance provider. She requested the Board allow for that section of the contract to be given out to patients who do not have insurance or cannot afford the invoice explaining the hardship procedure. The Board authorized this portion of the contract to be disbursed.*
- *Due to cancellation of the PTA meeting last week, the Board agreed to meet with them on April 6, 2011 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the KA Brett School.*

Non-Public Session

Mr. Roberts moved and Mr. Farnum supported to enter into a non-public session per RSA 91 A 3 II a & e. This motion was made at 8:06 p.m. Vote: Roberts, Yes, Farnum, Yes, Abraham, Yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Roberts moved and Mr. Farnum supported to adjourn the non-public session at 8:53 p.m. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Adjournment

Mr. Roberts moved and Mr. Farnum supported to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne M. Abear

Approved by Board of Selectmen: 2/10/2011

John Roberts

William Farnum

Robert Abraham

