

unapproved
TOWN OF WILMINGTON
2016 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MINTUES
March 1, 2016

At 11:25 am the Moderator declared the town meeting open. In attendance were Moderator Robert Fisher; Selectboard members Diane Chapman, Susie Haughwout (also Town Clerk), Jake White, Tom Fitzgerald; John Gannon; Town Manager Scott Murphy; Police Chief Joe Szarejko; Fire Chief Ken March; Road Supervisor Bill Hunt; Town Treasurer and Finance Officer Christine Richter; Assistant Town Clerk Patricia Johnson; members the Wilmington Board of Civil Authority; official poll workers and approximately 100 voters and members of the public. The Moderator made a few announcements and went over the requirements for participating and voting at Town Meeting and asked those who are not registered voters to identify themselves. He then read the following warning:

- Article 1: To elect all Town and Town School District Officers required by law and the vote of the Town. (Australian Ballot -Polls open 7:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M.)
- Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to accept the Town Report.
- Article 3: To see what date or dates will be set for the payment of taxes (8/19/16 and 2/24/17).
- Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$63,838 to fund the salary, benefits, insurance, and all costs associated with keeping a 6th full time police officer position in the police department
- Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 1,708,656 to care for the expenses and liabilities of the General Fund for fiscal year 2017 (7/1/16 to 6/30/17).
- Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 1,318,689 to care for the expenses and liabilities of the Town Road Budget for fiscal year 2017 (7/1/16 to 6/30/17).
- Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to fund the Bridge Rehabilitation Capital Fund with \$100,000 from the FY 15 surplus
- Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$200,000 for the Highway Town Road Equipment Capital Fund
- Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$150,000 for the Fire Department Equipment Capital Fund
- Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000 for the Memorial Hall Capital Fund
- Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$12,000 to fund the Library Capital Reserve Fund
- Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 to fund the Playground Capital Reserve Fund
- Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 to fund the Town Hall Capital Fund
- Article 14: To transact any non-binding business.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES: To allow non-voting/non-resident members of the town's administration and members of the public to speak without having to suspend the rules each time requested by Doug Wheeler, seconded from the floor. Moderator asked if any objection – there was no objection.

Diane Chapman and John Gannon spoke on behalf of the Selectboard to recognize retiring Selectboard Member Jake White for his contribution and service as a Selectboard member, Trails Committee Member and for his dedication to the community.

MOTION ON ARTICLE 2: To accept the Town Report made by Diane Chapman, seconded by Meg Streeter.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): None

SPEAKERS: None

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it - **MOTION CARRIED – SO VOTED.**

MOTION ON ARTICLE 3: To set 8/19/16 and 2/24/17 for the payment of taxes made by Diane Chapman, seconded by Ralph Staib.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): None

SPEAKERS: None

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it - **MOTION CARRIED – SO VOTED.**

MOTION ON ARTICLE 4: To raise and appropriate up to \$63,838 to fund the salary, benefits, insurance, and all costs associated with keeping a 6th full time police officer position in the police department made by Tom Fitzgerald, seconded by Laura Stevenson.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): Has there been an increase in population; mid 1960's population was about 1250, 2000 census showed 2225, and 2010 census showed 1875; feels like transient population has increased along with related problems; increased development has an effect on PD; has to staff 2 shifts per day 365 days per year while taking into account training time, sick time and vacation; PD not only deals with local residents – also with traffic, visitors and second-home owners which have increased over last 10 years; high turnover in Wilmington PD; merging with Dover should be explored; Selectboard expressed both support for 6th officer and concern over not being able to consistently fill the position created by the cops grant over 5 years; cops grant was to recruit and retain a permanent officer; grant hasn't worked as intended; budget is not level funded although the tax rate is; line items 69 and 71 reflect hiring and training gap; 6th officer position will relieve scheduling problems and save on overtime; acknowledged Dispatcher Cathy Goodell who retired in 2015 after 30+ years of service.

SPEAKERS: Joseph Cincotta, Susie Haughwout, Barker Willard, Tom Fitzgerald, Ralph Staib, Lynne Matthews, Fred Skwirut, Joseph Szarejko, Helen Staib, Adam Grinold, Diane Chapman, Tom Consolino, Doug Wheeler, Fred Houston, Gary Henry, Claudette Hollenbeck, Meg Streeter

MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION: made by Ralph Staib, seconded by Doug Wheeler.

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it by 2/3 majority - **MOTION TO END DEBATE CARRIED – SO VOTED.**

PAPER BALLOT requested by Barker Willard III and at least 6 other voters.

Paper ballot results – Yes 64 No 28

MOTION CARRIED – SO VOTED.

MOTION TO RECESS for lunch made by Doug Wheeler, seconded by Fred Houston.

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it – **MOTION CARRIED – SO VOTED.**

Recessed for lunch at 12:10pm.

Reconvened at 1:20pm.

MOTION ON ARTICLE 5: To raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,708,656** to care for the expenses and liabilities of the General Fund for fiscal year 2017 (7/1/16 to 6/30/17) made by Diane Chapman, seconded by Doug Wheeler.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): Selectboard worked hard on budget to keep tax rate down.

SPEAKERS: Diane Chapman

AMENDMENT ON ARTICLE 5: To raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,714,906** to care for the expenses and liabilities of the General Fund for fiscal year 2017 (7/1/16 to 6/30/17) which reflects an increase to Fireworks/Events line item #234 of **\$6,250** made by Cheryl LaFlamme to, seconded by Susie Haughwout.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): increase intended to reinstate funding for Chamber of Commerce 4th of July fireworks; previously had been a part of general fund for many years, but cut in this budget; Selectboard intends to allow 1% funds to be accessed for 4th of July fireworks.

SPEAKERS: Cheryl LaFlamme, Helen Staib, Fred Houston, Merrill Mundell, Fred Skwirut, Adam Grinold, Richard Joyce, John Gannon, Linda Brophy

MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION: made by Doug Wheeler, seconded by Susie Haughwout.

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it by 2/3 majority - **MOTION TO END DEBATE CARRIED – SO VOTED.**

VOICE VOTE ON AMENDMENT - too close to call - **MODERATOR CALLED FOR STANDING VOTE.**

RESULTS OF STANDING VOTE: Yes 29 No 32

AMENDMENT FAILED – SO VOTED.

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 5: To raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,716,656** to care for the expenses and liabilities of the General Fund for fiscal year 2017(7/1/16 to 6/30/17) which includes an increase of **\$8,000** to Cemetery Expenditures line item #58 made by Jim Burke, seconded by Susie Haughwout.

DISCUSSION: Explanation of what is costs to maintain cemeteries; there was no written budget presented by the Commission to the Selectboard during budget season therefore the increase was not considered; vault needs to be removed – additional space may be left as green space or perhaps new space for graves; Commission receives revenue from sale of graves; Selectboard strongly encouraged Commission to submit written budget in future.

SPEAKERS: Jim Burke, Susie Haughwout, Helen Staib, Jake White

VOICE VOTE ON AMENDMENT - too close to call - **MODERATOR CALLED FOR STANDING VOTE.**

RESULTS OF STANDING VOTE: Yes 35 No 18

AMENDMENT CARRIED – SO VOTED.

MAIN MOTION TO ARTICLE 5: To raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,716,656** to care for the expenses and liabilities of the General Fund for fiscal year 2017(7/1/16 to 6/30/17) which includes an increase of **\$8,000** to Cemetery Expenditures line item #58.

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it – MOTION CARRIED – SO VOTED.

MOTION ON ARTICLE 6: To raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,318,689** to care for the expenses and liabilities of the Town Road Budget for fiscal year 2017 (7/1/16 to 6/30/17) made by Jake White, seconded by Jim Burke.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): None

SPEAKERS: None

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it – MOTION CARRIED – SO VOTED.

MOTION ON ARTICLE 7: To fund the Bridge Rehabilitation Capital Fund with \$100,000 from the FY15 surplus made by Tom Fitzgerald, seconded by Bill Adams.

MOTION TO AMEND: To fund the Bridge Rehabilitation Capital Fund with \$100,000 from the FY15 surplus and to increase the amount by an additional \$130,000 for a total of \$230,000 made by Susie Haughwout, seconded by Jake White.

DISCUSSION TOPICS: Look Road bridge must be repaired this summer; Article asks for \$100,000 to fund Bridge Rehabilitation Capital Fund from FY15 surplus; Amendment asks for an additional \$130,000; Board received estimate in excess of \$300,000 for the work; Town may not receive grant money for this project; Question is whether to vote money to the fund today, or possibly have to borrow for the project this summer; any excess money would stay in the Bridge Rehabilitation Capital Fund; all bridges require continued maintenance; if total \$230,000 is approved, the additional \$130,000 asked for in the amendment would add approximately 2 cents to the tax rate; Total FY15 surplus was \$296,000; Selectboard board approved Article 7 to ask voters to appropriate \$100,000 of the FY15 surplus to the Bridge Rehabilitation Capital Fund leaving a remainder of \$196,000 FY15 surplus in the general fund under Article 5.

SPEAKERS: Susie Haughwout, Adam Grinold, Scott Murphy, Fred Skwirut, Bill Hunt, Jamie Brunn, Lisa Sullivan, Barker Willard III, Jim Burke

MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION: made by Doug Wheeler, seconded by Susie Haughwout.

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it by 2/3 majority - MOTION TO END DEBATE CARRIED – SO VOTED.

PAPER BALLOT requested by Doug Wheeler - **FAILED** – was not requested by minimum 6 other voters.

VOICE VOTE ON AMENDMENT: MODERATOR ruled AYES had it but received objection from floor that the voice vote was too close to call.

CALL FOR A STANDING VOTE made by Fred Skwirut.

RESULTS OF STANDING VOTE: Yes **36** No **21**

AMENDMENT CARRIED – SO VOTED.

MAIN MOTION ON ARTICLE 7: To fund the Bridge Rehabilitation Capital Fund with \$100,000 from the FY15 surplus and to increase the amount by an additional \$130,000 for a total of \$230,000 made by Susie Haughwout, seconded by Jake White.

FURTHER DISCUSSION: Why amend the article and ask for increased taxes at this time; Could 1% money be used; Selectboard received cost estimate for the bridge after budget process was complete, also the information that we might not receive grant money; this is opportunity for voters to decide how to manage Town's finances and their tax dollars by either raising money today, or choosing to risk potential borrowing this

summer – it's up to the voters; current balance of Fund, including potential raise & appropriate amounts, potential grant amount, and recent FEMA reimbursement explained.

SPEAKERS: Fred Skwirut, Susie Haughwout, Adam Grinold, Diane Chapman, Jim Burke, Christine Richter

MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION: made by Len Chapman, seconded by Doug Wheeler.

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it by 2/3 majority - **MOTION TO END DEBATE CARRIED – SO VOTED.**

POINT OF ORDER – unclear if the entire amount of \$230,000 would come from FY15 surplus or just \$100,000

FURTHER DISCUSSION: Total FY15 surplus is \$296,000; Article 7 asks for \$100,000 of FY15 surplus to be appropriated to the Bridge Rehabilitation Capital Fund; the remaining \$196,000 of FY15 surplus was voted already approved in the general fund under Article 5. The additional \$130,000 in the amendment would be new taxes raised to fund this account.

SPEAKERS: Bill Adams, Lynne Matthews, Tom Fitzgerald, Susie Haughwout

MODERATOR asks for REVOTE of the AMENDMENT to Article 7 so the body clearly understands the AMENDMENT.

MOTION to go back and revisit the **AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 7** made by Doug Wheeler, seconded by Barker Willard.

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it – **MOTION CARRIED – SO VOTED.**

MODERATOR REPEATS THE AMENDMENT ON ARTICLE 7 TO BE REVOTED: to add \$130,000 in new taxes, in addition to \$100,000 from FY15 surplus for a total of \$230,000 to fund the Bridge Rehabilitation Capital Fund.

DISCUSSION (including but not limited to): The FY15 surplus of \$196,000 is listed in line #49 of Revenues on page 24. It may have been easier to have left \$296,000 surplus in the general fund, and to have simply raised \$100,000 new taxes in Article 7 to possibly be amended with an additional amount.

SPEAKERS: Fred Houston, Christine Richter, Adam Grinold, Barker Willard III, Tom Fitzgerald

MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION: made by Doug Wheeler, seconded by Susie Haughwout

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it by 2/3 majority - **MOTION TO END DEBATE CARRIED – SO VOTED.**

REVOTE ON AMENDMENT – VOICE VOTE – ayes had it – **AMENDMENT PASSES – SO VOTED.**

MAIN MOTION ON ARTICLE 7: To fund the Bridge Rehabilitation Capital Fund with \$100,000 from the FY15 surplus and to increase the amount by an additional \$130,000 to be raised by new taxes for a total of \$230,000.

PAPER BALLOT requested by Barker Willard III - **FAILED** - was not requested by minimum 6 other voters.

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it – **MOTION CARRIED – SO VOTED.**

MOTION ON ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$200,000** for the Highway Town Road Equipment Capital Fund made by Jake White, seconded by John Gannon.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): Loader is scheduled for replacement; looking at leasing a grader.

SPEAKERS: Richard Covey, Bill Hunt

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it - **MOTION CARRIED – SO VOTED.**

MOTION ON ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$150,000** for the Fire Department Equipment Capital Fund made by Jake White, seconded by Diane Chapman.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): No money from this capital fund is earmarked for a “ladder” truck for Hermitage at this time; Fire Department Rescue Vehicle is scheduled for replacement along with replacement of all air packs.

SPEAKERS: Ralph Staib, Jake White, Lynne Matthews, Fred Skwirut, John Gannon, Joseph Cincotta, Christine Richter

MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION: made by Doug Wheeler, seconded by Susie Haughwout.

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it by 2/3 majority - **MOTION TO END DEBATE CARRIED – SO VOTED.**

VOICE VOTE ON ARTICLE 9 – ayes had it – **MOTION CARRIED – SO VOTED.**

MOTION ON ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$20,000** for the Memorial Hall Capital Fund made by John Gannon, seconded by Susie Haughwout.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): None

SPEAKERS: None

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it – **MOTION CARRIED – SO VOTED.**

MOTION ON ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$12,000** to fund the Library Capital Reserve Fund made by Susie Haughwout, seconded by John Gannon.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): None

SPEAKERS: None

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it – **MOTION CARRIED – SO VOTED.**

MOTION ON ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$2,000** to fund the Playground Capital Reserve Fund made by Diane Chapman, seconded by Susie Haughwout.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): Money is for replacement of swing set at Buzzy Towne Park; recent improvements to the park have been made – repaving basketball court, cutting back brush, installing port-o-potty; could some money could be used for cameras.

SPEAKERS: Helen Staib, Diane Chapman

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it – **MOTION CARRIED – SO VOTED.**

MOTION ON ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$5,000** to fund the Town Hall Capital Fund made by John Gannon, seconded by Susie Haughwout.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): None

SPEAKERS: None

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it – **MOTION CARRIED – SO VOTED.**

MOTION ON ARTICLE 14: To transact any non-binding business

DISCUSSION: Request for fireworks funding from 1% should go to Selectboard; brief update on police/fire relocation and meetings between Fire Department and Selectboard; discussion of savings by not mailing town report and how to best get the report to seniors who don't use computers; discussion on dredging rivers and other flood protection measures; update on revision to Reardon Crossing walking bridge; Library raffle winners.

SPEAKERS: Helen Staib, Adam Grinold, John Gannon, Sharon Adams, Bettina Krampetz, Lynne Matthews, Bill Adams, Tom Fitzgerald, Ralph Staib, Chris Crafts, Richard Covey, Barker Willard

MOTION TO ADJOURN FLOOR MEETING: made by Susie Haughwout, seconded Doug Wheeler.

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it – **MOTION CARRIED – SO VOTED.**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:30pm – Australian Ballot voting on Article I continues until 7pm.

TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND BELIEF, THESE MINUTES ARE A TRUE AND OFFICIAL RECORD OF ALL ACTION TAKEN AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD, MARCH 1, 2016.

Prepared on: March 3, 2016



ATTEST: _____
Susan Joy Haughwout, Wilmington Town Clerk

DATE: 3/3/2016

TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND BELIEF, THESE MINUTES ARE A TRUE INDICATION OF THE BUSINESS OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD, MARCH 1, 2016.

ATTEST: _____

DATE: _____

ATTEST: _____

DATE: _____

ATTEST: _____

DATE: _____