

Hancock Budget Advisory Committee
January 14, 2014

Minutes Present: Matthew Hale, Ron Mack, and Pat Payne. Absent: Lauren Carney.

Ron Mack called the meeting to order at 6:05

The first item of business was to review and accept the minutes of the January 7th meeting.

The second order of business was to review the proposed warrant articles.

Warrant Article #1 is a "housekeeping" article that deals with the election of town offices.

Warrant Article #2 is a zoning amendment with no budgetary impact.

Warrant Article #3 – The committee needs more information before any meaningful discussion can take place on this article.

Warrant Article #4 – deals with the requested town budget. The committee needs to see specifics on the budget and hold a discussion with the entire HBAC, and meet with the select board before taking a position on this article.

Warrant Article #5 – deals with appropriating \$2,500 to fund the 4th of July fireworks. Based on information provided by Pat Payne, the members present are inclined to support this article.

Warrant Article #6 – Meetinghouse Reserve Fund. If Article #3 doesn't pass HBAC members present are inclined to support this article. A question for the Select board on this topic is How much money is currently in the Meetinghouse capital reserve fund?

Warrant Article #7 – Bridge Capital Reserve Fund - How much money is currently in the Bridge capital reserve fund? HBAC members present are inclined to support this article.

Warrant Article #8 – Police Cruiser – HBAC members present are inclined to support this article.

Warrant Article #9 – \$5,000 for the Grapevine. HBAC members present are inclined to support this article.

Warrant articles: 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 are budget neutral.

The next topic of discussion was a review of the proposed budget figures which brought up a number of questions for Diane Kendall and/or the Select board:

Q: 4195-620 – Cemetery Landscaping - Why the increase in Cemetery landscaping line item? Are the Cemetery expenses offset by burial plot revenue?

Q: 4153-324 - Legal Expense – 2013 actual expenditures were \$7,265, which were \$2,765 over budget. The 2014 budget request is for \$8,100. Q: Does the select board anticipate a continuation of any legal issues that will cause this line item to go up?

Q: 4240-110 Building Inspector Wages – 2014 request is up by \$1,000 – Q: Does this reflect an uptick in the housing market? Q: If so, is the increase offset by revenue obtained through building permits?

Q: 4550-430 – Library Buildings & Grounds for the Library. Why an increase of \$2,000 in this line item?

The HBAC anticipates meeting with the select board during their regular Monday meeting, on Monday, January 27th, 2014, at 4:30.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37.

Respectfully submitted,