

**BRISTOL BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 13, 2012**

PRESENT:

Shaun Lagueux-Chairman, Paul Simard-Vice Chairman, Barbara Greenwood, Jon Thouin, Tom Keegan, Dorcas Gordon, Ashley Dolloff, Wendy Costigan, Dan Arseneau, Ron Preble, Mark Chevalier, David Carr

ABSENT:

Selectman Jeff Shackett

OTHERS PRESENT:

Town Administrator Michael Capone

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Lagueux called the meeting and the second Public Hearing to order at 7:00 pm.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Chairman Lagueux asked the members to review of the minutes from the January 30 meeting. Vice Chairman Simard made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Mr. Chevalier. This passed with 11 in favor and 1 abstention.

NEW BUSINESS:

Warrant Articles:

Article 10: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight hundred eighty-eight thousand dollars (\$888,000) to build an addition to the Minot-Sleeper Library and renovate the existing library-building, and to authorize the issuance of not more than the amount of eight hundred eighty-eight thousand dollars (\$888,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal finance act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. The first bond payment will be included in the 2013 budget.

2/3 Ballot Vote Required to Pass

The Budget Committee recommends this article

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article 4-0

Chairman Lagueux asked for any discussion regarding this warrant article. Vice Chairman Simard asked about the payment schedule. Town Administrator stated that there are several options and the Board of Selectmen would make the decision.

Ms Greenwood stated that donations continue to come in and there is a great deal of support for this project. Ms Gordon asked if more funding would come in if the project passed at the Town Meeting. Ms Greenwood replied that some have expressed they will donate money if the project receives the approval.

Vice Chairman Simard expressed a concern for the taxpayers. Ms Greenwood stated that it is time to let the voters decide. Ms Gordon stated that we need to invest to see growth and this is a positive investment.

Mr. Carr made a motion that the Budget Committee recommends Warrant Article #10. Mr. Chevalier seconded the motion. This **passed** with 10 in favor and 2 opposed.

Warrant Article #11:

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight hundred and fifteen thousand dollars (\$815,000) to pay for Water and Sewer Improvements in Central Square, and to authorize the issuance of not more than the amount of eight hundred and fifteen thousand dollars (\$815,000) of bonds and notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; furthermore to authorize the acceptance of grant monies from all Rural Development, State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) RSA 486.14 established for this purpose, and/or any other grant or aid, which might be available for this project. The first bond payment will be included in the 2013 budget. Without impairing the nature of the bonds as general obligations of the Town, it is expected and intended that Ten percent (10%) of the debt service on the bonds will be paid from general taxation and ninety percent (90%) of the debt service on the bonds will be paid from user fees.

2/3 Ballot Vote Required to Pass

The Budget Committee recommends this article

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article 4-0

Mr. Chevalier made a motion that the Budget Committee recommends Warrant Article #11. Ms. Greenwood seconded the motion.

Mr. Thouin wanted to know about the discussion at the Select Board meeting regarded the split of payment for this article. Chairman Lagueux stated that there was a lot of discussion and this seemed the best way. The Board has received feedback saying the general public should pay a portion for this project.

It was stated that if the user pays 100% they would see an increase of approximately \$44 per year; with this split that amount is decreased by \$5. Mr. Thouin commented that the non-user taxpayer was getting a benefit for little dollar input and that as a user he would see almost all of the cost (\$44) - just split between the water bill and the tax bill. Mr. Thouin added that he is glad the warrant article shows some split but he would like to see more charged to the taxpayer.

Chairman Lagueux called for a vote. The motion is to recommend Warrant Article #11. This **passed** with 11 in favor and 1 opposed. Mr. Thouin asked that it be noted he does not oppose the project he opposes the way the percentages are stated for payment of the project.

Warrant Article #12:

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five million, two hundred eighty eight thousand five hundred and forty two dollars, (\$5,288,541) for general municipal operations.

The Budget Committee recommends this article

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article 4-0*

***As mentioned previously, the Board would like this amount amended by \$15,000 to \$5,303,541**

Mr. Chevalier made a motion to adopt the Select Board amended amount of \$5,303,541. The amended amount shows a change to the Contingency Fund acct 01-4199-890 by \$15,000 to a new amount of \$30,000. This allows for additional funds to support the removal of the Mica Building while still leaving money for other contingencies. Mr. Preble seconded the motion.

Mr. Carr amended the motion to establish line item 4194-816 "Building Demolitions" in the amount of \$30,000. This funding would be a transfer of funds from the police payroll. Vice Chairman Simard seconded the motion.

Mr. Carr stated this would leave the contingency fund intact and the contingency fund is for use after the budget is approved. The Mica Building is a known expense and should be shown in the budget. This amendment would not increase the bottom line of the budget.

There was some discussion regarding the transfer of funds from the Police Department. Chairman Lagueux stated the need to show specific line item changes. Ms Gordon stated that this type of change should not be done at this late date. Vice Chairman Simard believes there is some savings to be had and this transfer of funds is feasible.

Chairman Lagueux called for a vote to create a new line item and transfer \$30,000 from the Police Department. This **failed** with 4 in favor and 8 opposed.

Chairman Lagueux called for a vote on the amendment to increase the contingency fund to \$30,000. This **passed** with 8 in favor and 4 opposed.

Mr. Chevalier made a motion to recommend the warrant article to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,303,541 for general municipal operations. Ms Greenwood seconded the motion. This **passed** with 9 in favor and 3 opposed.

Warrant Article 13:

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate one hundred fifty five thousand dollars (\$155,000.00) for the purchase of an ambulance and to further authorize the withdrawal of sixty four thousand dollars (\$64,000.00) from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000.00) from the Ambulance Replacement Capital Reserve Fund. The balance of seventy five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00) to be raised through general taxation.

The Budget Committee recommends this article

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article 4-0

Ms Greenwood made a motion that the Budget Committee recommends Warrant Article #13. Mr. Chevalier seconded the motion.

Ms Greenwood stated that after listening to Fire Chief Yannuzzi's presentation when he stated that last year the Department had willingly agreed to delay the purchase of an ambulance for a year. He continued by stating the current ambulance needs replacement and cannot delay again. Ms Greenwood feels it is time to make that purchase.

There was some discussion regarding the purchase of a smaller ambulance. It would be less money but it was explained that the van type of ambulances limits access to the patients and to supplies. The smaller ambulances are good for transferring patients but not for transporting a patient in an emergency.

Vice Chairman Simard asked if there was some way the communities that use our ambulances could share the burden of this expense. Town Administrator Capone that the other communities already pay for some of the expense and perhaps some portion of this can be included with the other fees.

Mr. Chevalier noted that if the Town would allow the Fire Department to put 10% away every year in a capital fund then this type of expense would be taken care of and the spike in the budget would be avoided.

Chairman Lagueux called for a vote on the motion to recommend Warrant Article #13. This passed with 8 in favor and 4 opposed.

Administrator's Comments:

Town Administrator Capone stated the MS7 should be available by Thursday. He will e-mail the committee when it is ready for signatures. It must be signed by the majority of the Budget Committee members prior to the warrant posting date of February 24.

Next Meeting:

Everyone was reminded to vote on March 13 and to attend the Town meeting on the 17th.

Adjournment:

Mr. Chevalier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chairman Simard seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Hemingway
Recording Secretary