

TOWN OF WOLFEBORO DELIBRATIVE SESSION
Minutes
February 7, 2023
Great Hall, Wolfeboro Town Hall

Being 7:00 PM Moderator Randy Walker called the session to order. He entertained the Pledge of Allegiance.

➤ ***Welcome and Introductions***

Moderator Walker introduced the following Town Officials present this evening:

Budget Committee members: Chairman John MacDonald, Bob Mulholland, Bob Loughman, Steve Johnson, Bob Tougher, Tom Bell, Matthew Plache and Brian Black.

Board of Selectmen members: Chairman Dave Senecal, Brad Harriman, Linda Murray, Luke Freudenberg and Brian Deshaies.

Staff and others: Town Clerk Patricia Waterman, Town Manager James S. Pineo, Finance Director Kathryn Carpentier Electric Department Director Barry Muccio, Public Works Director Steve Randall, Water & Sewer Superintendent Rod Dempsey, Fire Chief Tom Zotti, Deputy Fire Chief Nate Nichols, Police Chief Dean Rondeau, Police Captain Mark Livie, Tax Collector Brenda LaPointe, Parks & Recreation Director Christine Collins, and Planning and Development Director Tavis Austin.

Moderator Walker explained the process of the Deliberative Session and the purpose of the meeting is to determine the form of the articles for the ballot on March 14, 2023. He stated there are 40 warrant articles in total and they will not discuss Articles, 1-10 (1 relates to the election of candidates and 2 - 10 are relative to Planning and Zoning articles which already had their own public hearings).

Warrant Articles

Article 11: Public Safety Building Renovation and Expansion

Moderator Walker read the Warrant Article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,500,000 for the purpose of structural replacement, expansion and renovations and equipment replacement of the Public Safety Building. Further to authorize the issuance of not more than \$12,500,000 in bonds or notes for this purpose in accordance with the provisions of RSA 33, the Municipal Finance Act, and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen 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: and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, obtain, and accept federal, state, and/or other aid, grants and donations, if any, which may be available for said project and that may reduce the amount to bond and to comply with all laws applicable to said project and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any other actions or to pass any other vote relative thereto.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact:
2023 \$0.00 Per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation

2024 \$0.51 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
2025 \$0.51 Per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0
3/5 Majority vote required

Dave Senecal introduced the article and gave a summary of the proposed project discussing starting with a committee of staff, elected officials and community members and ending with the recommendation for this renovation/expansion project.

Mr. Pineo reviewed the PowerPoint presentation summarizing the project, he noted that they have received updated numbers on this project and will needed to increase the appropriation from \$12,500,000.00 to \$13,140,000.00.

It was moved and seconded to amend Article 11 to increase the appropriate to \$13,140,000.00. Being all in favor, the motion passed.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as amended.

ARTICLE 12: Libby Museum Renovation and Expansion Project

Moderator Walker read the article as follows.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000,000 for the purpose of structural repairs, equipment replacement, expansion, renovations, and engineering of the Libby Museum. Further to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,425,000 in bonds or notes for this purpose in accordance with the provisions of RSA 33, the Municipal Finance Act, and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept at least \$2,200,000 in donations from the Friends of the Libby Museum for this purpose and further to authorize the withdrawal of \$305,000 from the previously established Libby Museum Expansion and Renovation Capital Reserve Fund, also to authorize the Board of Selectmen to withdraw funds from the Betty Jane Schroth Libby Museum Endowment in the amount of \$70,000. Also to further authorize the Board of Selectmen 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, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state, and/or other aid, grants and donations, if any, which may be available for said project and that may reduce the amount to bond and to comply with all laws applicable to said project and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any other actions or to pass any other vote relative thereto.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact
2023 \$0.00 Per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
2024 \$0.08 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
2025 \$0.08 Per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 4-0-1
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5-3
3/5 Majority vote required

Brad Harriman introduced the article summarizing the Libby Museum was built in 1912 by Dr. Libby and was gifted to the Town of Wolfeboro in 1959. He stated that overtime the conditions of the building has resulted in deterioration of the exhibits. This discussion began with the Friends of the Libby back in 2019 in which they pledge to raise funds towards the expansion.

Mr. Pineo reviewed the PowerPoint presentation summarizing the project.

Steve Johnson stated he was not in attendance at the meeting this proposal was discussed and had he been at that meeting he would have voted not to recommend the article.

Dean Rondeau addressed the article and stated that initially he was not in support of this project, but after hearing the proposal at the Budget Committee meeting that included the future plans and vision of the museum, he supports the article.

Patty Cook addressed the article to question what the front of the building would look like. She questioned if you would see the view of the lake at all, she feels it is currently underutilizing the view of the lake.

Mr. Pineo the PowerPoint shows the building from the rear view, the front of the building would essential remain the same as it is now.

Suzanne Ryan addressed the article and stated this is an excellent deal for the town as the Friends have raised \$2 million dollars for this project.

Tom Goodwin, Chair of the Friends of the Libby, addressed the article to stated that even if the article gets a no vote, the town is still on the hook to address the structural integrity, maintenance and mold growth in the building. He stated those items will cost \$1.5 million dollars.

Laura Hammond addressed the article to state she visited this museum as a kid, taught art at the museum and was a former director of the museum. She stated the Friends of the Libby have raised \$2.2 million dollars and received much of its support from outside of Wolfeboro, from folks who can't even vote to support it.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as written.

It was moved and seconded to restrict reconsideration on the following articles: 11 & 12, being majority in favor, the motion passed.

ARTICLE: 13 Sewer Line Extension-Forest and Varney Roads

Moderator Walker read the article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000,000 for the purpose of engineering and installing sewer extension on Forest Road in the area of Carry Beach and Varney Road in the area of Friend Street. Further to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,000,000 in bonds or notes for this purpose in accordance with the provisions of RSA 33, the Municipal Finance Act, and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen 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, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state, and/or other aid, grants and donations, if any, which may be available for said project and that may reduce the amount to bond and to comply with all laws applicable to said project and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any other actions or to pass any other vote relative thereto, and to authorize the Town Manager to sign any relating documents.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact:

2023 \$0.00 Per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation

2024 \$0.06 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation

2025 \$0.06 Per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-2

3/5 Majority vote required

Linda Murray introduced the article explained that this article will address some water quality problems in Jockey Cove that is a health issue.

Mr. Pineo reviewed the proposed project via the PowerPoint presentation.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as written.

Article 14: Water Main Replacement South Main Street at Center

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000,000 for the purpose of replacing vintage water mains and on South Main Street from Center Street to the Smith River Bridge. Funds shall be utilized for engineering fees and water line replacement.

The amount of \$1,690,000 shall be funded from the Water Enterprise Fund. This expenditure shall not result in any increase in the tax rate.

Further to authorize the issuance of \$1,690,000 in bonds or notes for this project in accordance with the provisions of RSA 33, the Municipal Finance Act, and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell, and delivery such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon, and the maturity and other terms thereof: and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to participate in the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRLF) RSA 486:14 established for this purpose and to allow the Board of Selectmen to accept such monies as become available from the Federal and State governments and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relating thereto, and to authorize the Town Manager to sign any relating documents.

The Town has been awarded a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, American Rescue Plan Act Grant in the Amount of \$310,000.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact:

2023 \$0.00 Per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation

2024 \$0.00 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation

2025 \$0.00 Per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0

3/5 Majority vote required

Mr. Harriman introduced the article is to make the necessary repairs to vintage waterlines and noted when the lines were built they were not built to withstand today's demands.

Mr. Pineo summarized the proposed project via the PowerPoint.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as written.

ARTICLE: 15 Fire Truck Lease Purchase

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$850,000 payable over a term of five years for the purpose of entering into a lease/purchase agreement for a replacement fire department engine/pumper, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 in 2023 for the down payment to be followed by four annual payments currently estimated as follows:

2023 \$200,000 (Year 1 deposit)

2024 \$182,414 (Year 2 payment)

2025 \$182,414 (Year 3 payment)

2026 \$182,414 (Year 4 payment)

2027 \$182,414 (Year 5 payment)

This lease/purchase agreement does not include an escape clause.
Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$0.08 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2024 \$0.07 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2025 \$0.07 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2026 \$0.07 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2027 \$0.07 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0
3/5 Majority Vote Required

Mrs. Murray introduced the article and stated that the Board reviewed four ways to replace the pumper truck and determine a lease option made the most financial sense on the tax rate.

Chief Zotti addressed the article and summarized the options. He referred to the slide presentation explaining the replacement plan.

Bob Loughman stated it should be clear that this payment is being made over the next five years vs a payment to the Capital Reserve Fund.

It was moved to amend Warrant Article 15 to add language, to replace the annual contribution to the Fire Departments Capital Reserve Fund for the next five (5) years. The amendment was seconded for discussion.

DISCUSSION:

Julie Jacobs addressed the article and stated for clarity the Capital Reserve Fund for vehicle replacement will not be funded the next five years.

Chief Zotti replied, yes, the next vehicle purchase is planned for 2034 so they will have time to recoup the funds.

Being all in favor, the motion passed.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as amended.

It was moved and seconded to restrict reconsideration on the following articles: 13, 14 & 15, being majority in favor, the motion passed.

ARTICLE: 16 Operating Budget

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows.

Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount 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 \$31,226,190. Should this article be defeated the operating budget shall be \$30,669,065 which is the same as last year's operating budget, with certain adjustments required by the previous action of the Town or by law; of 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.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$5.24 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0

John MacDonald introduced the article reviewed the PowerPoint summarized the proposed budget.

Suzanne Ryan questioned the default budget and impact on the tax rate.

Mr. Pineo replied that it was outlined in the slide.

Kurt DeVlyder and Jeff Mcginuss addressed the article to request an amendment to the budget.

It was moved and seconded to amend Article 16, the operating budget for the Pop Whalen Ice and Arts Center, operating expenses to increase overall expenses from \$303,002 to \$402,702. The offsetting revenue increase for full 4-Season use will change from \$328,312 to \$447,779. This budget is within the Pop Whalen Enterprise Fund and will not impact tax rates.

The breakdown of the increase is as follows:

- Labor \$75,000 to be split between full and part time employment.
- Line item 740; Machinery & Equipment: Purchase floor cleaning machine: add \$6,500.
- Line item 740; Machinery & Equipment: Purchase Fob System for current electronic registration system: \$5,000
- Line item 410; Electric: increase line item \$13,320 from \$53,283 to \$66,602.

DISUSSION:

Mr. DeVlyder addressed the amendment explaining this request is inline with what was presented to the Budget Committee last year for the expansion of the Pop Whalen Ice and Arts Arena and that it has been recognized the proposed budget is not inline with what is needed to add the change in use for the summer season of the facility. He noted that the proposed increase will be more than offset with the revenue generated for the off-season use.

Linda Murray stated she will not be voting on this amendment since she sits on the Friends of Pop Whalen board and that would be a conflict of interest.

John MacDonald questioned the Parks and Recreation Directors opinion on this increase.

Christine Collins replied that she feels this would be a benefit the program and it has been something Friends have been discussing for some time.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as amended.

Article 17: Sewer Pump Station Upgrades

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$648,000 for the purpose of paying for increased cost of engineering, equipment, construction, and inspections of the Lehner and Mill Street sewer pump stations. This appropriation is non-lapsing pursuant to RSA 32:7.VI and shall lapse on December 31, 2024, or upon completion of the project whichever occurs first.

This will be paid from State Aid Grant in the amount of \$648,000 over the next 5 years from the RIB Project which would result in no tax rate impact.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$0.00 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0

Mrs. Murray introduced the article stating that this must come back for additional funds due to inflation costs.

Mr. Pineo reviewed the PowerPoint summarizing the project.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as written.

Article 18: Town Road Upgrades

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$850,000 for the purpose of upgrading and engineering for Town roads, sidewalks, and drainage systems. To authorize funds in the amount of \$850,000 from the Town's Unassigned Fund Balance. This appropriation is non-lapsing pursuant to RSA 32:7, VI and shall lapse on December 31, 2024, or upon completion of the project, whichever occurs first. This appropriation shall not result in any increase to the tax rate.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$0.00 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0

Mr. Freudenberg introduced the article and noted this is the annual road maintenance request.

Mr. Pineo introduced Steve Randall to review the PowerPoint presentation summarizing the annual work.

Ms. Ryan questioned how the unassigned fund balance will offset the tax rate.

Ms. Carpentier explained referring to the PowerPoint.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as written.

Article 19: Green Street Upgrades

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$530,000 for the purpose of upgrading Green Street. Funds shall be utilized for engineering fees, storm water drainage systems, the replacement of water and sewer mains and rebuilding the roadway.

\$100,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund shall be for the purpose of engineering and replacing vintage water mains which service Green Street.

\$430,000 from general taxation shall be for the purpose of engineering and replacing the existing sewer main in Green Street, storm water drainage systems and rebuilding of Green Street.

This appropriation is non-lapsing pursuant to RSA 32:7, VI and shall lapse on December 31, 2024, or upon completion of the project, whichever occurs first.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$0.18 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0

Mr. Harriman introduced the article that will replace the vintage lines.

Mr. Pineo reviewed the PowerPoint presentation summarizing the project.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as written.

It was moved and seconded to restrict reconsideration on the following articles: 13-19, being majority in favor, the motion passed.

Article 20: Mini Excavator

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$130,000 for the purpose of purchasing a mini excavator. The amount of \$78,000 shall be funded from the General Fund. The amount of \$26,000 shall be funded from the Water Enterprise Fund. The amount of \$26,000 shall be funded from the Sewer Enterprise Fund. This appropriation is non-lapsing pursuant to RSA 32:7,VI and shall lapse on December 31, 2024, or upon completion of the project whichever occurs first.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$0.03 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0

Mr. Deshaies introduced the article to explain that this purchase is to eliminate the need to rent this piece of equipment which is something they rent often.

Steve Randall addressed the article and reviewed the PowerPoint.

Mr. Pineo added that this purchase is not a Capital project since it is adding to the fleet.

Mr. Loughman clarified this will be covered by the fund in the future.

Mr. Randall replied yes.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as written.

Article 21: Municipal Electric Utility Boat

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$170,000 for the purpose of replacing the Municipal Electric Department boat, trailer, and associated equipment. The amount of \$170,000 shall be funded from Electric Enterprise Fund. This expenditure shall not result in any increase in the tax rate. This appropriation is non-lapsing pursuant to RSA 32:7, VI and shall lapse on December 31, 2024, or upon completion of the project whichever occurs first.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$0.00 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0

Mr. Freudenberg introduced the article to state the current boat was damaged twice this past summer and has been totaled. This is a piece of equipment that is needed as the Electric Department services over 100 island customers.

Barry Muccio addressed the article and reviewed the PowerPoint presentation summarizing the replacement.

Bobbi Boudman questioned what the plan is to ensure it does not get hit again.

Mr. Muccio replied that it oddly it was hit twice this summer but has been docked there for over ten years. He stated they plan to move the location to help protect it better.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as written.

Article 22: AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows.

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the two-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and Local #534 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at current staffing level of 43 employees:

Year	Wages	Benefits	Totals
2023	\$86,863.	\$20,870.	\$107,733.
2024	\$60,917.	\$14,475.	\$75,392.

And further to raise and appropriate \$107,733. for the current year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in wages and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current levels to be offset by funds from the Water Fund in the amount of \$10,981 and \$2,016 to come from

the Sewer Fund and the remainder from general taxation.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$0.04 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0

Mr. Senecal introduced the article and explained this is a two-year contract agreement.

Mr. Pineo reviewed the summary on the PowerPoint.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as written

Article 23: NEPBA (Police) Collective Bargaining Agreement

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the two-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town and Local # 39 of the New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA) which calls for the following increases in wages and benefits at current staffing level of 17 employees:

Year	Wages	Benefits	Totals
2023	\$44,843.	\$19,937.	\$64,780.
2024	\$22,080.	\$6,640.	\$28,720.

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$64,780. for the current year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in wages and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current levels.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$0.02 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Police Commission by a vote of 3-0
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-0

Mr. Senecal introduced the article and stated this is the proposed negotiated contract with the Police and Central Dispatch departments.

Mr. Pineo reviewed the summary of the contract via the PowerPoint.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as written.

It was moved and seconded to restrict reconsideration on the following articles: 20-23, being majority in favor, the motion passed.

Article 24: School Resource Police Officer-Kingswood Complex

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$72,706 for the purpose of creating a new position within the Wolfeboro Police Department effective June 5, 2023. During the regular school year this position shall be assigned the position of School Resource Police Officer (SRO) for the Kingswood Complex.

The remainder of time, outside the regular school year, this position shall be assigned as a town of Wolfeboro patrol officer.

The school district, SAU49, shall pay the Town of Wolfeboro 50% of payroll and benefits which is \$22,338, for this position for up to 73 school days (August 2023 – December 2023), outlined below.

Current MOU with SAU49 \$306 per day

	cost/day	# of days	2023 Costs	cost/day	# of days	2024 Costs
SAU49 SRO Cost	\$306	73	\$22,338	\$306	180	\$55,080
Town SRO Cost	\$179	73	\$13,093	\$199	180	\$32,283
Town Policing	\$485	77	\$37,275	\$505	80	\$38,838
		Total Cost	\$72,706		Total Cost	\$126,191

This position shall be created and filled only if both the Town warrant article and the SAU49 Warrant Article VII pass. If both articles are successful, this position shall be fully funded in future years with the SAU49 paying half of payroll and benefits for up to 180 school days, outlined above.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$.02 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$.02 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation.

Recommended by the Police Commission by a vote of 3-0

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 4-0-1

Recommended by Budget Committee by a vote of 5-4

Mr. Deshaies introduced the article.

Steve Wood, Chairman of the Police Commission, addressed the article to summarize the proposal. He stated based on the Warrant Article for the school district he has a language amendment.

It was moved and seconded to amend Article 24 replace the reference to SAU49 to the Governor Wentworth School District.

DISCUSSION:

Brodie Deshaies questioned what would happen if the article is voted down.

Mr. Wood replied it would mirror what the school district article reads.

John MacDonald clarified that if the article is voted down, will the town still pay.

Mr. Wood replied we do not.

Mr. Loughman questioned a contract.

Mr. Wood replied there is a MOU.

Being all in favor the amendment passed.

Mr. Wood summarized why this proposal was presented late after the budget reviews began. He stated this proposal is a result that the activity at the campus has more than doubled on the campus, he is not saying the school is a dangerous place. He stated for more information the January 24, 2023, School Board meeting discusses the topic.

Suzanne Ryan questioned if the School Board voted to recommend or not recommend the article.

Mr. Wood replied their vote was 6-1-3.

Bobbi Boudman stated that she feels this is an important Warrant Article to pass and noted there was some misinterpretation of information, this will not eliminate hiring a therapist.

Steve Johnson stated the Budget Committee held a second meeting on this article in which the voted was updated. He stated the data provided can be viewed in a number of ways, but overall he felt this proposal was rushed and didn't provide the whole story and should have been put forth another year.

It was moved and seconded to amend the Warrant Article from \$72,703 to zero. Being majority opposed, the motion failed.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as amended.

Article 25: Police Cruiser Replacement

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$66,000 for the purchase of a Police cruiser replacement vehicle and ancillary vehicle equipment with \$5,000 from the Police Detail Revolving Fund created by Article 23 in 2006 which has accumulated from special details in prior years. Additionally, this warrant article also grants permission to the Wolfeboro Police Commission to dispose of one existing cruiser by sale, auction, trade, or disposal, with any proceeds to be returned to the Town's General Fund.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$0.03 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation

Recommended by the Police Commission by a vote of 3-0

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-2

Mr. Freudenberg introduced the article and summarized the reason for the replacement.

It was moved and seconded to amend Article 25 to change the fund from the Police Detail Revolving Fund from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Wood stated after discussion with the Finance Director on an update of the funds in the account, the Commission decided to increase the contribution.

Mr. Loughman clarified that makes the cost \$56,000 now.

Mr. Wood replied yes.

Being all in favor, the motion passed.

Mr. Loughman questioned what vehicle this replaces.

Mr. Wood replied the Lieutenants vehicle.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as amended.

Article 26 Readoption of Veterans Tax Credits

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

Shall the Town of Wolfeboro vote in accordance with RSA 72:27-a to readopt the provisions of RSA 72:28, II, previously adopted, for an Optional Veterans' Tax Credit at \$500 per year. If readopted, the All-Veterans' Tax Credit, previously adopted, will also be \$500 per year, the same amount as the Optional Veterans Tax Credit. If readopted and approved, this article shall take effect for the 2023 property tax year.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5-0-3

Mr. Freudenberg introduced the article and explained this vote will readopt the Veterans Tax Credit.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as written.

Article 27: Public Works Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 to be added to the existing Public Works Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund which is under the custody of the Trustees of Trust Funds with Selectmen designated as agents to expend.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$0.13 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-1

Brad Harriman introduced the article as the fund that is used to replace vehicles and equipment to help not spike the tax rate.

Mr. Randall addressed the PowerPoint.

It was moved and seconded to restrict reconsideration on the following articles: 23-27, being majority in favor, the motion passed.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as written.

Article 28: Sidewalk Capital Reserve Funding

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 to be added to the existing Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund which is under the custody of the Trustees of Trust Funds with Selectmen designated as agents to expend.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$0.03 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0

Mrs. Murray introduced the article summarizing this is to make upgrades to the deteriorating sidewalks.

Mr. Pineo reviewed the PowerPoint presentation.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as written.

Article 29: Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund

Moderator read the next article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the existing Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund which is under the custody of the Trustees of Trust Funds with Selectmen designated as agents to expend this Capital Reserve Fund

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$0.02 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-1

Luke Freudenberg introduced the article that will allow the town to address any large, unexpected expenses.

Mr. Pineo reviewed the PowerPoint presentation.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as written.

Article 30: Wastewater Treatment Plant Capital Reserve Fund

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 to be added to the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant Capital Reserve Fund which is under the custody of the Trustees of Trust Funds with Selectmen designated as agents to expend this Capital Reserve Fund.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$0.08 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0

Mrs. Murray introduced the article.

Mr. Pineo reviewed the PowerPoint.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as written.

Article 31: Water Resources Non-Capital Reserve Funding

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the existing Non-Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to RSA 35:1-c for the purpose of a watershed management plan, including, engineering, design, permitting, best management practices for storm water drainage and nutrient mitigation, grant matching and education which is under the Trustees of Trust Funds with the Selectmen as agents to expend from this Non-Capital Reserve Fund.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$0.04 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 7-1-1

Mrs. Murray introduced the article as protecting the most valuable asset, the water.

Mr. Pineo reviewed the PowerPoint presentation.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as written.

Article 32: Abenaki Ski Area Capital Reserve Funding

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the existing Abenaki Capital Reserve Fund which is under the custody of the Trustees of Trust Funds with Selectmen designated as agents to expend.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$0.01 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0Mr. Deshaies introduced the article.

Mr. Harriman introduced the article, again capital reserve funds are useful budget tools.

Christine Collins reviewed the PowerPoint.

It was moved and seconded to restrict reconsideration on the following articles: 28-32, being majority in favor, the motion passed.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as written.

Article 33: Establish Tree Removal & Replacement Expendable Trust Fund

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$125,000 to establish a Tree Removal and Replacement Expendable Trust Fund. Said funds shall be under the custody of the Trustees of Trust Funds and to designate the Selectmen as agents to expend.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$0.05 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 7-2

Mrs. Murray introduced the article and noted the goal is to replace the 230 trees removed and keep up with future removals.

Mr. Pineo reviewed the PowerPoint.

Lenore Clark, Chair of the Conservation Commission, noted that the Conservation Commission supports this article and program.

Patty Cook addressed the Board to state that Wolfeboro has been a Tree City in the past and no longer meets those requirements.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as written.

Article 34: Warmth and More Fund-Expanded

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

To see whether the Town will vote to authorize an expansion of the existing "Warmth and More Fund" as approved by voters in 2021 for the purpose of expanding the program to operating a wood bank to assist those in need of firewood for heating purposes. Passage of this article would allow the Town to accept donations of firewood into the wood bank. Distribution of firewood for heating purposes would be determined by the Welfare Director.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$0.00 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0

Mr. Deshaies introduced this article as a means to expand the current fund for heating fuel to include the mechanism to assist wood heating residents and allow the town to have the ability to accept wood for heating as a donation.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as written.

Article 35: Petition Warrant Article

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

To see whether the Town will vote to authorize an expansion of the existing "Warmth and More Fund" as approved by voters in 2021 for the purpose of expanding the program to operating a wood bank to assist those in need of firewood for heating purposes. Passage of this article would allow the Town to accept donations of

firewood into the wood bank. Distribution of firewood for heating purposes would be determined by the Welfare Director.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact: 2023 \$0.00 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0

Holly Aucoin addressed the article to explain this is to gain the support of the town towards the updated community playground at Carpenter Elementary school.

Being no further discussion, Moderator Walker declared the article will appear on the ballot as written.

Article 36: Petition Warrant Article

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of contributing to construction of a new playground at Carpenter School?(Submitted by Petition)

Estimated Tax Rate Impact 2023: \$0.02 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5-4

John Thurston addressed the article and read a statement explaining the reason for the proposed article to upgrade Cate Park and make it ADA accessible.

Carrie Duran, resident, addressed the article and spoke in favor of the upgrade noting she is the parent of a child with Down Syndrome and would appreciate the upgrade.

John Thurston also stated that he'd like to thank Kathy Rankin for her 35 plus years of dedicated service to the Town of Wolfeboro, Parks and Recreation Department.

Article 37: Petition Warrant Article

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

To ask the town selectmen to support the beautification of the town; specifically in the areas by the Railroad Station Trolley pickup, Town Hall, and the strip of dirt in front of IGA by doing the following:

1. Combine current landscaping budgets now split between Parks & Recreation and Public Works to make it easier to manage currently fragmented landscaping work and costs.
2. To increase funding by \$10,700, in addition to the current budgets of Parks and Recreation and Public Works to allow an external landscaping company to be hired for 25 hours a week for 20 weeks
3. To add an additional 4K to the plant materials budget for hardy perennials.

The majority of our town landscape areas are maintained on a volunteer basis by the Wolfeboro Garden Club or individuals. In 2022, these spaces were eyesores and greatly neglected. It is no longer sustainable for the spaces cited above to be maintained by a volunteer, or to be added to Garden Club projects. Parks and rec attempted to hire a gardener in 2022 with a budget of 32 hours @ 20 weeks /\$18.25 hr. (\$11,980.80) and were unsuccessful in finding a candidate. (Submitted by Petition)

Estimated Tax Rate Impact 2023: \$0.01 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation

Board of Selectmen voted to abstain 0-0-5
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-1

Sabet Stroman addressed the article to explain the reason for this request.

Suzanne Ryan addressed the article and noted although well intended she finds it confusing and suggested an amendment.

It was moved and seconded to amend article 37 to read To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate not to exceed \$14,700 in addition to the current Parks and Recreation budget to hire a landscaping company to maintain and support beautification in downtown areas such as the RR Station, Town Hall and in front of the IGA as needed. This is a one year lapsing appropriation program. Being all in favor, the motion passed.

Article 38: Petition Warrant Article

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to establish the Wolfeboro Parks and Recreation Commission. Under RSA 35-B members shall be citizens of Wolfeboro and consist of (9) members appointed by the Board of Selectmen serving staggering terms of the three years, with one member of the BOS serving as ex-officio pursuant to RSA 35-B-4. Wolfeboro Parks & Recreation Commission shall exercise the powers and duties vested in it in accordance with RSA 35-B:3, with any powers not so designated, retained by the Board of Selectmen and Wolfeboro Town Meeting. Further pursuant to RSA 35-B:2 II, establish a Recreation Revolving Fund whose expenditures shall be for the sole purposes of parks and recreation. Said fund shall not be considered part of the Town's unreserved fund balance. (Non-lapsing funds).

Estimated Tax Rate Impact 2023: \$0.00 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Anne Blodgett addressed the article to state she does not have a personal agenda or desire to serve on this commission, but felt it would help make Wolfeboro a better place. She stated that many communities have these commissions, and most people are surprised to find out Wolfeboro does not have one.

Brodie Deshaies questioned who within one hour of Wolfeboro has one with the same population as Wolfeboro.

Ms. Blodgett replied Alton and Tuftonboro both have one.

Mr. Deshaies questioned the size of Tuftonboro.

Linda Murray noted that in 1972 the Town of Wolfeboro adopted the Town Manager form of government which did a way with many of the commissions the town had at the time. She has a concern this will article and referenced RSA 35-bl (she read it) and noted she feels this an overlap of the Town Manager duties.

Nathan Fennessy of Preti and Flaherty addressed the article to state he met with the Board as the Town Council at a work session to discuss the concerns with regards to this article and agrees that this article conflicts with the Town Manager duties.

Ms. Blodgett feels that could be addressed through bylaws.

Mrs. Murray stated she prefers to see it proposed as a committee vs a commission.

Christine Collins addressed the article and noted that the town currently has a Parks and Recreation revolving fund and most of the towns who have a commission like this are all volunteer parks and recreation departments. She stated her department could use more volunteers and/or employees vs another committee.

Mr. Deshaies stated that he has not found a community with the Town Manager form a government with a commission, its more in communities with Town Administrator form of government.

Ms. Blodgett replied that Bedford and Plaistow both have one.

Warren Muir addressed the Board and noted that the article is not recommended by the BOS 0-5.

Ms. Ryan questioned if it the article is illegal.

Mr. Fennessy replied it is not as a simple answer as that.

Brodie Deshaies stated the town struggles with volunteers as it is and suggested reducing it to a commission of five.

It was moved and seconded to reduce the number of Commission members in Warrant Article 38 to 5.

DISCUSSION:

Bob Tougher noted that the members are on a three year rotation and the RSA is what designated the number of nine members.

Being majority against the amendment, the motion failed.

Article 39: Petition Warrant Article

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

By Petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the Town of Wolfeboro to see if the town will vote to prohibit expending town funds for the purpose of taking action towards the banning of books or any other content from our Wolfeboro Public Library thereby guaranteeing our citizens their First Amendment Rights and their rights under the New Hampshire Constitution [Art.] 22. [Free Speech; Liberty of the Press.]

Additionally, to see if the town will direct the Selectmen of the Town of Wolfeboro to urge the New Hampshire General Court to stop all actions including House and Senate Bills infringing upon First Amendment Rights as explained in the 1939 Library Bill of Rights, the 1953 Freedom to Read Statement, and 1999 Libraries: An American Value.

The record of this vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen to our New Hampshire State Legislators, and our Carroll County Attorney, informing them of the vote

of the March 14, 2023, Town Election within 30 days

Estimated Tax Rate Impact 2023: \$0.00 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen with a vote of 5-0

Bobbi Boudman addressed the article with regards to the right to have access to books.

Article 40: Petition Warrant Article

Moderator Walker read the next article as follows:

Are you in favor of authorizing the Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen to 1) accept the mountain bike trails construction on town owned parcels of land known as the Abenaki Recreational Area and Wolfeboro spray fields with a donation construction cost and values of \$170,986. 2) determine what is in the best interest of the town and said properties for future development of the mountain bike trail system and to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a legal and binding agreement with the Wolfeboro Singletrack Alliance to operate and maintain the Abenaki Recreational Area and Wolfeboro spray field mountain bike trail system, and 3) accept up to \$300,000.00 in financial donation for future mountain bike trail development.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact 2023: \$0.00 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation
Board of Selectmen voted to abstain 0-0-5

Cris Dow addressed the article to summarize the request and proposed an amendment to the article.

It was moved and seconded to amend Article 40 to read Are you in favor of authorizing the Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen to 1) accept the mountain bike trails constructed on town owned parcels of land known as the Abenaki Recreational Area and Wolfeboro spray fields with a donation construction cost and values of \$164,512.59 2) determine what is in the best interest of the town and said properties for future development of the mountain bike trail system and to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a legal and binding agreement with the Wolfeboro Singletrack Alliance to operate and maintain the Abenaki Recreational Area and Wolfeboro spray field mountain bike trail system, and 3) accept further financial donations for future mountain bike trail development. Being all in favor, the motion passed.

Suzanne Ryan questioned why one of the Board of Selectmen members abstained.

Mr. Deshaies replied he abstained as he requested more information from Wolfeboro Single Track Alliance.

Being no further business, Moderator Walker called for a motion to adjourn.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 10:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Capone-Muccio
Recording Secretary
Town of Wolfeboro

