

Ways & Means Committee
November 26, 2018
Minutes

Members in attendance: Peter Moustakis, Sarah Bonnoitt, Elaina Bedio, Mike Facques, and Maggie Paul.

Prior to the Board of Selectmen meeting, members discussed the emails received from department heads Eric Hahn and Amy Lapointe, in as much as confirming that everyone received and understood the replies. No new information was discussed regarding these emails.

After the Board of Selectmen meeting, committee members took votes on those warrant articles which we agreed were acceptable in their current state, and made notes to follow up with Mary Guild for clarification or further answers.

Warrant article votes are presented in the number support / oppose / abstained vote:

Article 22 – vote later once the budget is finalized

Article 23 – would like to confirm that the contingency fund, if unused, goes back to the undesignated fund balance from which it is pulled every year, and that it does not accrue.

Article 24 – 5/0/0 (5 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained)

Article 25 – 5/0/0 (5 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained)

Article 26 – 5/0/0 (5 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained)

Article 27 – 5/0/0 (5 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained)

Article 28 – 5/0/0 (5 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained)

Article 29 – 5/0/0 (5 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained)

Article 30 – 5/0/0 (5 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained)

Article 31 – no vote until language is changed to reflect the intention of appropriating this money only if the matching funds are raised.

Articles 32, 33, 34 – The committee feels that the language used in these articles leaves room for confusion by use of the phrase “no tax impact,” and that the relation of these funds to the Bridge CRF, which does have a tax impact, is not as clear as it could be. The concern comes in the interest of ensuring that the voters can easily understand these articles to make their best informed vote, as Ways & Means sees the value of making the bridge replacements in FY20 in terms of avoiding inflation and potential additional costs that there might be if the work is delayed by “no” votes.

Article 35 – 5/0/0 (5 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained)

After the votes, the committee discussed the contents of the article that is issued to the public via local newspapers. Peter volunteered to compose the letter. Points for the article were discussed and may include the DPW garage warrant article, as well as an issue that came up during a previous BOS meeting of the pros and cons of the Parks & Rec Dept “02 fund” being used for purchases, such as the mower requested by the Department for FY20.

Future meeting dates were reviewed and then the committee adjourned.
12/10/18

SFB amends the minutes to denote that warrant article numbers listed above, reference the draft issued on 11/26/18.