

Budget Hearing
February 6, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Fuller Town Hall

Selectmen Present: Davis, Macdonald and Goulet.

Public Present: Chuck Stinson, William Zanes, Chester Smart, Vicki DeLalla, Josiah Barnes, and Suzanne Goulet

Jamie called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

Jamie read all the Warrant Articles.

State of New Hampshire
Town of Stratford
2019 Town Meeting Warrants

To the inhabitants of the Town of Stratford in the County of Coos qualified to vote in Town affairs: you are hereby notified to meet at Fuller Town Hall on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 10 a.m. to act on Articles 1 through 14. Polls open at 10 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.

Article 1. To choose by non-partisan ballot the following Officers: 1 Selectman (3 years); 1 Town Treasurer (3 years); 1 Cemetery Trustee (3 years); 1 Library Trustee (3 years); 1 Town Auditor (1 year); 1 Trustee of Trust Funds (3 years).

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$765,555 for the operating budget. This article does not include the cost of any other warrant article.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,100 to be added to the previously established Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund, with the full amount to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Board Recommends)

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000 to be added to the previously established Highway and Bridges Capital Reserve Fund. (Board Recommends)

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 to be added to the previously established Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund. (Board Recommends)

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,000 to be added to the previously established Recycling Capital Reserve Fund, with the full amount to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Board Recommends)

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 to be added to the previously established 250th Celebration Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of funding the 250th anniversary celebration to be held in 2023. (Board Recommends)

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,500 to be added to the previously established Government Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. (Board Recommends)

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 to be added to the previously established Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund. (Board Recommends)

Article 10. To see if the town will vote to grant to Library Hall, LLC a lot line adjustment between Tax Map 239, Lot 68 (also known as the Stratford Hollow Pavilion lot) and Tax Map 239, Lot 69 (the Library Hall lot) so Library Hall may install water and sewage service. The adjustment shall transfer no more than 3,200 square feet to Library Hall, LLC.

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$250 for the Cohos Historical Society in support of the group's efforts and community events within the town.

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Conservation Fund Account as authorized by RSA 36-A: 5, with the fund to be held by the municipal Treasurer (RSA 41:29).

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,000 in donations to the following groups: \$150, North Country Home Health & Hospice; \$150, Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital; \$150, Northern Human Services; \$1,600, Tri-County CAP (fuel assistance); \$2,900, Tri-County CAP Senior Meals (meals on wheels); \$150, Tri-County CAP North Country Transit (bus service); \$150, Big Brothers Big Sisters; \$150, CASA; \$150, Backpack Program; \$150, Service Link; \$150, The Rec Center; \$150 Stratford Old Home Day, Inc.

Article 14. To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting and to hear reports from any agents or committees heretofore chosen.

Given under our hands and seal this 12th day of February in the year 2019.

Jamie asked if anyone had any questions about any of the Warrant Articles.

Vicki asked about Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 to be added to the previously established Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund. (Board Recommends) The Board said that the town is still in need of some kind of Police presence in town and whether it be State Police, our own PT PD or whatever it is, the town will need some equipment. So, the Board recommends holding on to the Cruiser until which time it is decided to sell it or trade it in, etc.

Josiah asked the Board about selling the Cruiser and putting the money into this fund. The Board said that the Cruiser has been inspected recently and it is in very good shape with only 70,000+ miles on it. The Board does not recommend selling the Cruiser at this time.

Jamie started with the MS-636 (Budget) line by line and asked if anyone had any questions to please raise their hand.

Chuck asked about the Police Budget. The Board said that it has been decreased but they left enough in the budget in case we would hire the State Police or a PT Police Officer.

Chester asked if there was going to be an Article on the Police Dept. The Board said no not at this time.

Vicki asked about the Perambulation and was told that there is no Perambulation for this year but money is always put under 4199 Other Government in case if the town needs to have a survey done, etc.

Josiah asked about 2 Board's Recommending and was told that only the Select Board can Recommend.

Davis/Macdonald (3/0 approved) motion to adjourn at 6:30 pm.

Recorded by B. Ladd