

## Special Town Meeting

August 2, 2017

### Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M.

22 registered voters present.

Article 1: To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

John Wingert nominated, nomination seconded.

Approved by 1 written ballot.

Article 2: To see if the voters will appropriate and authorize the Town to authorize the Treasurer and the Board of Selectmen, in the name of and on behalf of the Town, to borrow an amount not to exceed \$350,000, the proceeds of such borrowing to be used to finance road repairs, replacements and related improvements, including repaving the 2.7 miles of Great Pond Road for which the Town is responsible, and also to finance improvements to Town Hall, and to issue the Town's general obligation bond in an amount not to exceed \$350,000 to a lender to be selected by the Treasurer and the Board of Selectmen under such other terms and conditions, including provisions for early redemption or prepayment, as they may approve, and further authorizing the Treasurer and a majority of the Board of Selectmen separately to take any and all other actions and to sign such other documents and certificates as may be necessary or convenient to accomplish such borrowing?

John Wingert, as Chair of the Select Board and Meeting Moderator, explained the warrant article and answered questions from the floor. There was much discussion and many questions from voters. More contractors have been contacted and bidding discussed. Terms of loans from local banks have been investigated. The Moderator suggested that the voters may want to vote to reduce the amount authorized in the warrant down from \$350,000 as some contractors contacted have indicated that the work may be done for a lesser amount.

There was much discussion regarding possible bid proposal amounts and directions to proceed in.

A motion was made and seconded to change the warrant article amount to \$180,000. Much discussion ensued. The vote was taken by a show of hands with 5 voters in favor and the majority of voters opposed. The Motion did not pass.

At one point when agreement seemed difficult, a straw vote was proposed. A motion was made and seconded to vote by a show of hands as to whether the voters wished to proceed with road work this fall or not. The vote was unanimous to repair the road this fall.

Discussion continued; the main concerns of the voters being reducing costs, putting contracts for work to be done out to bid, and requesting that the Board's decisions be made public by postings on the Town Hall bulletin board and on the website. The voters were encouraged to attend Selectmen's meetings and publishing the minutes of such meetings on the website was discussed.

A motion was made to change the amount in the warrant article to \$100,000. The motion was not seconded. Discussion continued.

A motion was made and seconded to change the debt ceiling amount in the article to \$200,000. The change was approved by a show of hands: 18 in favor, 3 opposed 1 abstention. The motion was carried.

Ballots were distributed for a written vote to approve the article as amended.

The ballots were counted and voters passed the article with 19 in favor, 2 opposed and 1 abstention.

Meeting adjourned.