

TOWN OF GROTON
PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED BUDGET
February 7, 2023

In Attendance: John Rescigno, Tony Albert, Ron Madan, and Sara Smith (Administrative Assistant)

Audience Members Present

John called the Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget and Warrant Articles to order at 6:27pm.

John explained that there are two budgets and warrant articles. One with the bond and one without the bond. It was agreed to go over the budget without the bond, with the full costs of the building on it. The operating budget is the same on both at \$853,935. The building is under the warrant articles so that is where you will see the different totals. John mentioned that with the full building costs, the budget will only increase \$51,971.00 from last years budget.

John mentioned that if anyone picked up the warrant articles before 3:00pm today they will want to get a new one. Warrant Article 2 on the Zoning was updated.

Budget

John reported that the Operating Budget of \$853,935 which increased by \$46,850 which the majority of this increase was from increases in electricity, utilities, heating costs and gas prices. This also included the yearly raises for the employees.

General Government

John mention that the General Government totals \$326,655 which increased by \$23,143 from last year. This consists of Executive, Election, Registration, Vital Statistics, Financial Administration, Legal Expenses, Personnel Administration, Planning and Zoning, General Government Buildings, Cemeteries, General Insurance, Advertising and Regional and Other General Government. The increases in this section come from the merit increases, large increase in health insurance costs and general insurance costs.

Executive

The proposed budget is \$72,782, an increase of \$3,377. John explained that there was a proposed merit increase as part of the evaluation process. This year the merit increases were more than 3% due to costs increases all over.

Pam doesn't think the moderator salary should be this much because 2023 is a one election year so normally that would make the budget go down. Sara mentioned that she has some trainings which the training would be under that line but the hours for the training would be under that line. Sara mentioned that this was Amy's first time doing the budget so she met with the Select Board on it. The Select Board and Amy couldn't remember off the top of their heads as to why they kept it this amount. Amy mentioned she has a few trainings. Pam asked when her trainings were. Amy explained they are in 2023, they were in January and February. Pam thinks it is still too high. The Select Board agreed that we will look into this.

Election, Registration, Vital Statistics

The proposed budget is \$61,551, an increase of \$2,858. There was an increase here were for merit increases as well. The ballot clerks and checklist supervisors increased because there are more elections this year and due to an increase in election wages.

Pam had the same question about ballot clerks that she had for the moderator. Sara mentioned that there was an increase for election employees. Pam said that there is one election and this should be less. John said we will look at this as well.

Financial Administration

The proposed budget is \$25,165, which increased by 1,000 due to an increase for the cost of the Town report and increase in Treasurer Salary.

Legal Expenses

The proposed budget is \$13,000, which stayed the same as last year.

Personnel Administration

The proposed budget is \$85,100, which is an increase of \$8,700 due to increase in Health Insurance.

Planning/Zoning

The proposed budget is \$7,212, an increase of \$151 due to the increase for the Planning Board Master Plan and Zoning for the Zoning Amendments.

Pam asked why the increase to see if it was Master Plan year. Sara explained it went up due to zoning amendments.

General Government Buildings

The proposed budget is \$26,100, a decrease of \$3,200 due to the increase in electric costs and heating costs.

Cemeteries

The proposed budget is \$6,152, an increase of \$1,000 which was mostly under the River Road Cemetery.

General Insurance

The proposed budget is \$17,848, an increase of \$2,846 which was an increase in costs for 2023 for Property & Liability Insurance which went up \$1,443, Workmen's Compensation went up \$1,334 and the Unemployment Compensation line went up \$78.00.

Advertising and Regional Associations

The proposed budget is \$4,450, which stayed the same as last year.

Other General Government

The proposed budget is \$7,292, an increase of \$11 due to the tax mapping costs increasing by \$11.

Police

The proposed budget is \$78,004, an increase of \$150. There were decreases and increases throughout.

Miles asked about the amount of money that was allocated for wage increases this year. He said up to this point it seemed pretty consistent across all departments but this year it is all over the place. It appears the Chief is only getting a 1.4% increase in wages but others have more than that. He is not saying that these people do not deserve to be fairly compensated, although he already thinks they are. John mentioned that Chief is getting 4% increase but the budget last year was over budgeted so it didn't need to increase as much. If you look at what Chief actually made last year and at his hourly rate, he is getting

4%. Miles asked about the Town Clerk and others. John mentioned that some were given percentages and some were given flat amounts to bump them up to make more money. They looked at an overall percentages and then also compared to what other places are making and what even some fast food places are offering their employees. This is why we bumped up the ones that were making less to make it more competitive to some of the other areas that are offering higher pay so we don't lose the quality people that we have.

Miles asked for John to explain again what happened with the Police Chief. John mentioned that his budget had money left over from last year. It was overbudgeted. Miles said that money goes into the general fund. Sara said if you look at his YTD totals you will see what he actually made last year so you can see that it was over budgeted. He works 25-29 hours so with the 4% increase on 29 hours a week it does fall under that \$47,000.00 amount that is budgeted this year. Miles asked why it isn't reflected accurately on the line item. John said it is. Last year we budgeted \$46,350 out of that he only was paid \$39,496.54 so with the 4% increase we only needed to increase the line \$650.00 to make it the \$47,000.00. It didn't need the full 4% increase from last year because it was overbudgeted last year.

Pam asked to keep it simple, how many hours was last year's budgeted on. John said that last year he believes it was based on 32 hours but he actually only works 25-29 hours so we based this year on 29 hours. Pam said this year took his rate with increase times 29 hours times 52 weeks. John said that is correct. Pam said so last year was over budgeted based on more hours but this year is more realistic.

Miles said that this is the first time he has noticed this, John said that he thinks it just looks odd because normally what we budget and what we spend are closer but since his was overbudgeted it isn't close which is why there wasn't as much of an increase needed to that line.

Fire and Ambulance

The proposed budget is \$110,604, which stayed the same as last year.

Emergency Management

The proposed budget is \$1,278, which stayed the same as last year.

Highway Administration

The proposed budget is \$90,352, an increase of \$3,956 which is in the Road Agent Wages due to merit increases, increase in telephone and electricity.

Highways and Streets

The proposed budget is \$114,301, which is an increase of \$9,000 which is due to increases in gas, diesel, salt and tree maintenance.

David asked how much for highway block grant? He wanted to know if it covers the entire cost because it says it is offset by it. Sara explained that it doesn't cover the entire amount, there would be a different but it is offset by the amount of the grant. She believes it is around \$30,000 a year but doesn't know the exact amount. It comes in four payments which are paid quarterly. She will get this amount for the next meeting. Sara explained that when we get this money from the State it goes into the general fund. John explained the grant just offsets it but we still have to raise the money we need in the budget.

Miles asked why the tools and equipment purchases was over. We budgeted \$2,000.00 but spent \$7,835.94. Bubba explained that this was for the mower. He explained that this was the right line to put

it under but we made sure to keep other lines under. This will not be that much this year. John mentioned we did have a public hearing on the mower purchase before we purchased it.

David asked if we need any other equipment to set up the new garage if it comes. Bubba said he doesn't see a need for anything. John agreed.

Streets and Lighting

The proposed budget is \$1,540, which is an increase of \$240 due to electricity costs increasing.

Sanitation – Monitoring

The proposed budget is \$2,500, which is a decrease of \$6,950 due to not needing the full PAF testing this year.

Miles asked if break through with the people that require us to do this testing. Sara said we feel like we have but we thought that a few years ago and then we had to test again. We have been told we shouldn't need it for a few years so that is why it isn't on the budget this year. It is one of those things that we do not have control over.

Solid Waste Disposal

The proposed budget is \$108,095, an increase of \$15,835 which is mostly due to transportation costs. John explained that we just received a large increase from Casella. Our contract is up with them in July so we will put it out for bid before then to see if we can get a better deal. Sherry said we should go with a smaller company. John said these things are unfortunately driven by the cost of fuel. Bubba said they are also closing landfills.

Health Administration

The proposed budget is \$2,803, an increase of \$1,250 due to an increase in the stipend. Sara explained that Tony is the Health Officer and he is trying to hire a deputy health officer that is a third party and familiar with laws and regulations. The person that we use for the junkyard inspections through MRI may also do this for us. Tony said that he has had questions on code enforcement and she would have more information on that so he would have her as a resource for that.

Health Agencies and Hospitals

The proposed budget is \$4,866, a decrease of \$74 which was because Pemi Baker went down \$154 but Transport Central increased to \$100.00.

Welfare

The proposed budget is \$4,701, which is the same as last year.

Culture and Recreation

The proposed budget is \$8,236, an increase of \$300.

Parks and Recreation

The proposed budget is \$6,039, an increase of \$300 which is due to the increase for Tapply Thompson Community Center.

Library

The proposed budget is \$2, which stayed the same as last year.

Patriotic Purposes

The proposed budget is \$100, which stayed the same as last year.

Conservation

The proposed budget is \$2,095, which stayed the same as last year.

Other questions on budget:

Sherry asked if we can go back to Planning and Zoning. She said we seem to be getting a lot of new citizens that want to build in certain ways. A lot of work lately seems to be going into this. Can we look into sharing a code enforcer/building enforcer with another town? John said we have discussed it but they are trying to keep the zoning restrictions down. John said that we haven't had that many complaints that the Select Board wasn't able to handle. John said it is something we discussed and if needed we will move that direction but they do not feel we need to write now.

Pam asked what was in the unreserved fund balance. Pam said we will also be adding the money that wasn't used in the 2022 budget to this amount. There is approximately \$140,000.00 from this year which will be added to this as well. She would like this information to see what we look like going into 2023 as a consideration to see if we want to do the building all in one shot. Sara went and got the information and it is \$382,880.00. Pam asked what the percent was. Sara explained 18.53%. Pam said that is really good. Sara said it is a little above the maximum recommended and that is even applying money to the tax rate.

Information on leaving the school district

John went over the information on leaving the school district and House Bill 349. Bridgewater, Hebron and Groton are looking at leaving the SAU. They have a bill that is at the state capital right now. We will be going down Friday February 10th to speak to it. This hearing is at 10:15am. The information is posted on the website. If you go on the website and review the information and you can vote in support of the bill. There is also a facts sheet. You do not have to be a resident to show support. There is a spot that you can put comments in if you choose. Please do not make comments about the tax rate but stick to we are doing this to better our students' education.

David asked which SAU we would be going to. John mentioned that there is 29 SAUS in the state so a new one would be created, possibly SAU30.

The bill is out there right now. If the bill gets passed, we will have four years to leave the SAU. During these four years, they will create committees such as budget committees and other committees like all school districts have. They will then reach out to Plymouth, Newfound, etc. to see about contracts to tuition students to those schools for high school. They are also looking at if it costs \$20,000 to tuition to one of those schools then maybe allowing the families the \$20,000 to use towards a private school. That is not etched in stone but is something they are looking into. Once everything is figured out, that is when the towns will vote on if they actually want to leave the school district and create its own. Right now, all they are doing is creating the ability to leave. If the bill passes, it gives us the option to leave the school district.

Sherry said that right now Bridgewater Hebron Village School is a title but they are not tied to each other. John said that the school is paid for right now and they are debt free. We would extend that school to grade 8 so they will put a few more classrooms on it. The school right now is currently built and all the duct work and plumbing are set up for more classrooms. Sherry asked if the Bridgewater Hebron School is just a name. It was explained that it is a village school. She asked where does Groton fit into it. John

explained that they would let us be a part of creating a new district which would be the three towns. Right now, we have no say over it.

Miles said he went online and read the fact sheet. He said that facts are subjective now so who compiled these facts. John mention that Terry and Erick worked on a lot of it. They are pretty much the facts. Miles asked who Terry and Erick are. John mentioned Terry Murphy is a Selectman in Bridgewater and Erick is also from Bridgewater and he is a great numbers guy.

John said that last year they were trying to change the school funding formula and they way the taxes were collected. They wanted to change it so it was based on the valuation not the number of students. This would have increased Groton's taxes by about \$225,000-\$250,000 which is the amount we need to raise for the building. Fortunately, enough people went to the deliberative session to squash that and they formed a committee instead. John was a part of that committee and they spent countless hours down there going back and forth. They said they couldn't come up with any determination but John feels they did because at the end of the committee no matter how they changed the way the taxes were collected there were three towns that were going to pay heavy and four towns that would walk out with extra cash. We were not one of them walking out with extra cash. They did come up with a conclusion but they don't want to admit that.

John mentioned again to go online to show support and if you want to go Friday you should arrive at 9:45am it is up on the second floor. The information is on the web page. You do not have to speak but the numbers standing behind us will help. You can speak if you want just keep it positive. Slim asked if this is the house not the senate. John said we are going before the education committee. If that passes it will go to the house.

David asked if we got money for COVID. Sara explained that we didn't have to shut down or put plexiglass up and all masks and sanitizer were donated so we didn't have to put a lot of money out. Anything we did spend money on we did get reimbursed for. It wasn't a lot compared to other towns. John explained we also did receive ARPA funds.

Pam said that she saw in the minutes that Hill formed a separate school district and wanted to know if that is correct. John said that it is correct as far as he understands it. Pam asked how that worked and if the Select Board know any history about that. John said he doesn't know all the details but knows that they own their own school. Tony said they do own their own school and currently do K-8 in their town and they used to only go to Franklin but now they tuition to Newfound. Tony said that is what they are thinking about doing here, K-8 and then tuition to the high school they want to attend. John said this is why they are able to do it because Bridgewater-Hebron owns the school.

Stacey mentioned that one thing to keep in mind is the students at Bridgewater-Hebron school who are not from Groton, Hebron or Bridgewater would have to pay to attend school there. John said that is correct that they would tuition in if they wanted to.

Tony Tavares asked if we would have to hire a Superintendent. John said yes, we would. John said they have looked at options but this is something that would be discussed if the bill passes and possibly use the Superintendent at Newfound or Plymouth. All of these conversations will take place if the bill passes and there are four years after to work out all of the details.

Cindy asked if there has been outreach to the other school districts to see if we could tuition our students there or could we be left high and dry. John said that if we are left high and dry then we wouldn't leave

the district. We didn't reach out to them yet because it hasn't passed yet and they wanted to keep it low key so that there wasn't a lot of negative publicity out there. We do not have to leave if things don't work out, this just gives us the option to leave.

Sherry said at the Deliberative session they were talking about the literacy rates for the students and the ones that attended Bridgewater-Hebron Village School were way higher than the rest of them. She said it would be a no brainer to want to keep our kids in this school longer.

Sara mentioned that there are many benefits. One is shorter bus times. Another is that is a tough age when they go to the middle school and then on top of all of the other changes that are going through at that age and then they have to transition to another school instead of being able to stay where they are already comfortable.

Tony said that was one of his dad's biggest complaints back then that they couldn't have built the high school any further away then they did from Groton. Sherry asked why that was the choice. Tony said he doesn't know why they decided on that but the other parcel that was in discussion was across from Bridgewater Hebron School where the snowmobile shop is now.

Warrant Articles

John mentioned that we are going to go over the warrant articles. Article 1 and 2 are ballot articles that will be voted on at Town elections. The Planning Board already had meetings on the Zoning Article. John explained we will start with Article 3 and we are looking at the one without the bond.

Article 3: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **six hundred twenty five thousand dollars (\$625,000)** to design and construct a new Department of Public Works building, with **two hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$215,000)** to be raised from taxation; with **two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000)** to come from a grant from USDA Rural Development; to authorize the withdrawal of **one hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000)** from the Public Works Capital Reserve Fund; to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto.

John asked if he should read the one with the bond. The audience agreed that wasn't necessary. John said the difference between the two is the amount being raised, one for full building and one for bond would be \$90,000 bond payment. Sara explained that another difference is that the bond article would be a ballot vote with 3/5 vote required, and the one without a bond would be a majority vote.

John asked by raise of hands out of curiosity who would be in favor of doing the building without the bond. It was close to 50/50.

Cindy asked if there was a way to show how it would affect the tax rate. John said for every \$100,000.00 your tax rate goes up roughly \$1.00. Tony said he did the math and if we did the full building since the budget will increase about \$52,000 from last year the tax rate would go up about \$0.55. That would be paying it off in one year.

David asked said that on the budget sheet it shows with bond it would be \$90,000.00 and without bond would be \$215,000. John mentioned that would be a difference by \$125,000.00. Pam explained that the budget went down in other areas so that was why Tony mentioned the budget wouldn't only increase

by about \$52,000.00. David said he is saying that it is a difference of \$125,000.00 if the article passes for the bond or without. That is correct.

Ruth asked if we do the building this year, will the new building improve our assessed value for the Town. John said yes it would. Ruth asked if that helps with the taxes. John said yes, it will actually lower the taxes.

Jeremy Elder said that if this goes through, will the Town be approached the next year to demo the current building. John said yes, we would have to take the other one down. Sara explained that when we were looking for building grants, there were more grants out there for the demolition of buildings so we would look into this at that time.

Article 4: Operating Budget \$853,935

This was already gone over above.

Article 5: \$97,500 for previously established Capital Reserve Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ninety-seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$97,500)** to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Funds. (Majority vote required)

Disaster Relief CR Fund (Dec. 31, 2022 balance: \$81,391.98): \$50,000
Police Cruiser CR Fund (Dec. 31, 2022 balance: \$15,971.74): \$10,000
Town House CR Fund (Dec. 31, 2022 balance: \$34,137.03): \$10,000
Truck/Sander CR Fund (Dec. 31, 2022 balance: \$11,178.35): \$10,000
Heavy Equipment CR Fund (Dec. 31, 2022 balance: \$1,347.49): \$10,000
Assessing Reval CR Fund (Dec. 31, 2022 balance: \$10,657.58): \$7,500
Total Capital Reserve Funds \$97,500

John mentioned if article 3 fails we would like to put money into the Public Works Capital Reserve Fund so we would amend this. If it passes, we won't need this. He said we would like to put \$100,000.00 in the building so you do the math there, for \$115,000.00 you could do the new building. If it fails, we would lose the grant so we would have to raise more money than we have to raise this year.

Jeremy asked if we could lose vehicle insurance on the vehicles if we keep the building there and keep storing the vehicles there. John said yes. John said he has mentioned that before that the rates will just keep going up and up until they drop you. Jeremy mentioned this could make it harder to get other insurance too. Sara said same with the insurance on the building and future grants. Jeremy said if this doesn't pass, we could lose not just the building but the vehicles too.

David said we should put the line in for the Public Works Building, even if it is only a dollar, so you can just amend the amount. John said we will ask the attorney how we can change this.

Article 6: Road Repair and Paving Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will authorize the establishment of a Road Repair and Paving Capital Reserve Fund to be used for road repairs and paving. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of **fifteen thousand (\$15,000)** to be placed in the Fund and to appoint the selectmen as agents and expend from the fund.

Miles asked if this is separate from the normal Groton roads maintenance. Tony said yes, this is for future paving projects and road maintenance. Tony said roads are in good shape now but will need maintenance to keep them in good conditions. Bubba said that it will have to be maintained sooner than later. We need

to put some sealers down to protect the road and keep them at the standard they are at now so we don't get back to where we were.

Sherry asked if it is true that there are only 13 miles of Town maintained roads. Bubba said it is more like 20 miles. John said this is to maintain what we have so we don't slip back to where we were. Sherry said people think that we take care of private roads which we don't.

David said we had a Groton Road fund that was a warrant article. Then it was decided to put it into the budget so this is to bring that back. Sara said that is different, we aren't bringing it back because the \$25,000 is still there it is just in the Highway budget now for yearly work. Bubba explained that \$25,000 isn't enough for paving projects and road repairs. The money that is in the budget is used mostly on the gravel roads. David said again that we are just bringing the warrant article back.

Pam said it we actually aren't bringing it back. This is a Capital Reserve Fund which is a savings account for future years when we may need it, where the other one is a budget line to be used that year. Pam said that \$15,000 is not a lot considering how much money we have put into the roads.

Sara explained that there could be more paving and road work that needs to be done. Since she has been here, we have done about \$2 million dollar in road work, paving, culverts, etc. We got grants to cover a large portion of that. Next time we may not be fortunate enough to have grants available or awarded to us when we have projects that need to be done so we need to have money to cover it, instead of raising it all in one year.

Bubba said that \$15,000.00 isn't even close enough to what we would need.

David said it looks like we are trying to bring back what people voted out. Sara explained it was never voted out. It was voted to move the funds from being a warrant article to being part of the budget so it is still there and as explained this is a Capital Reserve Fund so it is different.

Article 7: Refurbish the 2012 International 6-wheeler

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **thirty-five thousand (\$35,000)** to refurbish the 2012 International 6-wheeler body and frame.

John said the vehicle itself, the engine and all the major components are sound and it has low miles, it just needs some work. Bubba said that he is hoping to fix the body to get another 5-7 years. This truck now is close to \$250,000 to buy a new one and this \$35,000.00 would allow the current one to last us longer.

Miles would like to know what Tony thinks about this. Tony said he thinks we should do this. The truck is in great shape except for the dump body. He said the other thing is it is pre-emissions so we are not having to deal with all the stuff for that. The frame is in good shape, the cab is in good shape, it is the dump body that needs the work, replace the lines, do the spinner, new cables. He thinks we could get even more than five years out of it.

Article 8: Conservation Commission portion of Timber Tax

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **two hundred twelve dollars (\$212)** for deposit in the Conservation Fund. Fund to be offset by **two hundred twelve dollars (\$212)** from unassigned fund balance. This sum represents 3% of the Timber Tax revenue for 2022. (Submitted by the Conservation Commission) (Majority vote required) 65

Stacey asked how much is in the Conservation Fund today. Sara had this information with her and said as of the end of December there was \$6,536.46. Pam thought there was more but Sara looked it up today.

ARTICLE 9: STANDARD AND OPTIONAL VETERANS' TAX CREDIT (RSA 72:28)

Shall the town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28, Optional Veterans' Tax Credit? If adopted, the credit will apply to every resident of this state who is any person who is a veteran, as defined in RSA 21:50, and served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States in any qualifying war or armed conflict listed in this section, and continues to serve or was honorably discharged or an officer who continues to serve or was honorably separated from service; or the spouse or surviving spouse of such resident, provided that training for active duty by a member of the national guard or reserve shall be included as service under this subparagraph; (b) Every resident of this state who was terminated from the armed forces because of service-connected disability; or the surviving spouse of such resident; and (c) The surviving spouse of any resident who suffered a service-connected death. If adopted, the credit granted will be \$500, which is the amount previously adopted by the town.

NOTE: This article is required because the legislature expanded the eligibility criteria for this credit to include individuals who have not yet been discharged from service in the armed forces.

The Select Board Recommends This Article 3-0

ARTICLE 10: ALL VETERANS' TAX CREDIT (RSA 72:28-b)

Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, All Veteran's Tax Credit? If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident who is a veteran, as defined in RSA 21:50, and served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and continues to serve or was honorably discharged or an officer who continues to serve or was honorably separated from service; or the spouse or surviving spouse of such resident, provided that training for active duty or state active duty by a member of the national guard or reserve shall be included as service under this paragraph; provided however that the person is not eligible for and is not receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If adopted, the credit granted will be \$500, the same amount as the optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town under RSA 72:28.

NOTE: This article is required because the legislature expanded the eligibility criteria for this credit to include individuals who have not yet been discharged from service in the armed forces.

John explained that we already had these tax credits but there was a change so we had to put it before the Town again. Sara mentioned that the note under each warrant article explained why it changed. We currently have this for \$500.00 but if we didn't put it back on with this change it wouldn't be considered legitimate.

David asked if \$500.00 is the maximum the Town can give for this. Slim and Sara said it is \$750 she believes but the Town voted for the \$500.00. Norm thought that it was up to \$1,000.00. Sara wasn't aware that it was but she can look into it. David asked why we don't change it to what the state recommends. John said keep in mind the higher you raise that number, the more the other residents have to pay. David said but the others were not in the service. John said he understands. Pam mentioned that the State doesn't recommend an amount. Sara said they give the range of how much you can give and it is up to the Towns to decide. Sara said that each Town is different, some give lower and some give higher.

Slim asked how many people currently receive it. Sara doesn't have the amount of people but said the town had \$21,000.00 in war service credits last year so there is a lot and this number will increase probably due to the changes.

David thinks we should raise this amount. He asked if he could amend the current warrant article since it has the \$500.00 amount in it. John said you probably could. We will look into this.

Slim said that some states do not charge taxes to Veterans. Norm said that it is up to the Town. Norm said some towns are significantly more than \$500.00. John said that the residents can amend it if they would like.

Article 11: Transact any other business that may legally come before the Town

Deliberation

The Selectmen deliberated on the following items.

- The only items to consider changing was the Moderator, ballot clerks and Article 5 if we can add the line with \$1.00 for the Public Works building. The Select Board agreed to keep the moderator and ballot clerks as they are and we will check with attorney on the Public Works Capital Reserve. The Select Board also said we can change the building warrant article 3 once we confirm the amounts. We are hoping this can be done in the next week.
- The Select Board agreed that if the townspeople want any other changes to the amounts, then they can do an amendment at Town Meeting.
- It was agreed that Sara will make the changes to the warrant once we have all of the answers and she will let the Select Board know when it is ready to be signed. Also, the MS-636 will need to be signed. **John motioned to come in and sign the warrant and the MS-636 once it is ready, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to close the public hearing on the Proposed Budget and Warrant Articles at 7:24pm, Ron 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant