

**DRAFT
WORK SESSION**

PRESENT: R. P. McDermott, Chairman; M. Kasprzak, Vice Chairwoman; L. M. Smith, Selectman; L. A. Ruest, Town Administrator

BUDGET WORK SESSION:

The Board reviewed an updated Summary sheet that includes the changes made at its meeting of October 28. Additionally, the Board reviewed budget line 4155 – Employee Benefits that includes 2015 rates for employee benefit policies.

In response to a question raised on October 28, L. Ruest read an email response from Cemetery Trustee Chairman Jonathan Bohm indicating the budgeted funds for the purchase and planting of trees is for six trees. The work sheet will be amended to reflect the number six.

DRAFT WARRANT:

The Board reviewed the draft warrant acknowledging potential matters that may be forthcoming. The Capital Improvement Plan for 2015-2020 is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Selectmen at its November 5 meeting. Changes may result after this presentation. Once all information is available, the warrant will be revised for additional consideration of the Board.

Discussion took place with regard to the merits of continuing with a warrant article request for road improvement funds or whether the decision made at the Board's October 28 meeting of including the \$200,000 in 4312 – Highway Department budget should remain. Following discussion, the Board opted to keep \$150,000 in the budget and also present a warrant article for this purpose in the amount of \$50,000. It was identified that the voters have historically approved the funds by warrant article, however, there is concern that should a warrant article fail that little to no work would be done to maintain roads or road needs. On the other hand, concern was stated that should the amount in the budget not be spent in full in one year that the remaining funds would be returned to the general fund rather than the Capital Reserve Fund held by the Trustees of the Trust Funds allowing for expenditures year to year. R. P. McDermott reminded the Board of the report from RSMS identifying and prioritizing road needs.

L. A. Ruest explained that she received information from Town Clerk Holly Knowles that there has been indication of a potential delay with regard to the request for funding of a new voting machine. H. Knowles offered that the Board could wait a year to request the second half of the cost of the machine. The Board decided to ask for the second half of the cost in 2015.

TAX RATE PAPERWORK:

The Board reviewed the unofficial preliminary tax rate information from the Department of Revenue Administration in conjunction with a number of options with regard to applying an overlay amount as well as an amount to reduce taxes. L. M. Smith inquired as the effects of utilizing overlay funds to include how the funds get replenished. L. A. Ruest explained that overlay funds utilized over recent years have been consistent and that the question relating to

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how overlay affects the tax rate setting process should be brought to the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) representative. The Board asked that L. A. Ruest contact the DRA Representative to schedule a conference call to discuss this and other questions that might arise.

OTHER:

Planning Board Design Review Application – Brown Road Senior Housing Development: The Board discussed information obtained from Tuesday night's Planning Board meeting in this regard. Issues relating to this development included impact on traffic, road safety, road standards, intensification of the area, increased population and public safety needs and impacts on public safety departments.

In conjunction with the discussion above, the Board determined that it would be beneficial to repaint the center lines on Brown Road to assist drivers. The Board asked L. A. Ruest to call the Contractor to see if the work could be done within the next two weeks. Suggestion was made that if Brown Road striping could be scheduled that the Hampton Falls portion of Towle Farm Road be done at the same time.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.