

**APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE****MEETING MINUTES**

63 Main Street

Selectmen's Meeting Room

March 29, 2023

7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Janice Hight
Robert D'Amico
Tim Kaelin
Rick Nieber
Tony Poteete

ABSENT: George Brenckle

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Kaelin invited comments from the public. There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 22, 2023 MEETING

Ms. Hight moved the Committee vote to approve the March 22, 2023 meeting minutes; Mr. Poteete seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

FINALIZE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORT TO TOWN MEETING

Mr. Coderre reviewed in detail with Committee members the Appropriations Committee report to Town Meeting, which was distributed and read by all members prior to tonight's meeting.

Warrant Articles 4 – 13

Mr. D'Amico moved the Committee vote to recommend approval of the following Articles to Town Meeting, as presented:

Article 4—Town Budget

Article 5—Water, Sewer & Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Budgets

Article 6—Northborough K-8 Schools Budget

Article 7—Algonquin Regional High School Budget

Article 8—Assabet Valley Regional Vocational School District Budget

Article 9—Establishment of Health Department Revolving Fund

Article 10—Revolving Funds Authorization of Expenditure Limits

Article 11—Appropriations Committee Reserve Fund

Article 12—Stabilization Fund Contribution

Article 13—Appropriation of Opioid Settlement Funds

Ms. Hight seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Capital Budget Warrant Articles 15 – 24

Mr. Poteete moved the Committee vote to recommend approval of the following FY2024 Capital Budget Articles to Town Meeting, as presented:

Article 15—Police: Cruiser Replacements
Article 16—Police Station Exterior Repairs & Painting
Article 17—Fire: Engine 1 Replacement
Article 18—DPW: Road Improvements and Maintenance
Article 19—DPW: 20-Ton Dump Truck with Spreader and Plow Replacement
Article 20—DPW: Highway Garage Tight Tank DEP Compliance
Article 21—DPW: One-Ton Truck with Plow Replacement
Article 22—DPW: (Water/Sewer) 15-Ton Dump Truck
Article 23—DPW: (Sewer) SCADA Phase II
Article 24—School: Zeh Elementary School Rear Entrance Repair

Ms. Hight seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

ARHS Athletic Complex Warrant Article 25

At the Committee's March 22, 2023 meeting, Mr. Coderre provided an update on FY2024 State Aid and its impact on the FY2024 Algonquin Regional High School (ARHS) assessment, as well as the updated cost estimate for the ARHS Athletic Complex.

Mr. Coderre noted that the Regional School Committee voted to approve the ARHS Athletic Complex at their meeting on March 15, 2023. He added that the Appropriations Committee has no authority over the actions of the Regional School Committee and the warrant article relating to the ARHS Athletic Complex.

Mr. Poteete moved the Committee vote to recommend approval of Article 25 – Algonquin Regional High School Athletic Complex Project, as presented; Mr. D'Amico seconded the motion; the vote was 3-2-0 (Mr. Nieber and Ms. Hight opposed).

Mr. Nieber and Ms. Hight expressed concern over the necessity of some project components and the tax impact, given other competing capital needs of the Town.

Community Preservation Act (CPC) Warrant Articles 30 - 35

Ms. Hight moved the Committee vote to recommend approval of the following FY2024 CPA Articles to Town Meeting, as presented:

Article 30—White Cliffs Debt Service
Article 31—Administrative Fund
Article 32—Affordable Housing Reserve
Article 33—Construction of Dog Park
Article 34—Construction of ADA Accessible Trails at Senior Center
Article 35—Library Historic Marker

Mr. Nieber seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Mr. Poteete moved the Committee vote to approve the Appropriations Committee report to Town Meeting as amended and to authorize Chairman Kaelin and the Town Administrator to make any necessary non-substantive edits, if needed; Mr. D'Amico seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Hight moved the Committee vote to adjourn; Mr. Nieber seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell
Executive Assistant

Documents used during meeting:

1. March 29, 2023 Meeting Agenda
2. Draft Appropriations Committee Report