



Special Town Meeting  
April 11, 2022

A Special Town Meeting was held on Monday, April 11, 2022. The meeting was attended by the Board of Selectmen including First Selectman, Angus L. McDonald and Selectmen Duane Gates and James Olson. Also in attendance were Bruce Chudwick, attorney of Shipman & Goodwin, LLP and approximately 45 residents.

First Selectman Angus McDonald called the meeting to order at 7:02pm and asked for nominations for a moderator. Duane Gates made a motion to nominate Richard Daniels, Jr. as moderator which was seconded by George (Bud) Eckenroth. The motion was approved unanimously. Daniels appointed Amy Winchell, to act as clerk of the meeting.

A motion to waive the reading of the call was made by Marilyn Malcarne and seconded by Jane Samuels and was approved unanimously.

Bruce Chudwick noted two omissions in the resolution:

1. Section 1. should include WPCA in the list of departments using the radio system.
2. Section 2. should include the amount of \$300,000 for the ARPA funds being allocated.

A motion to waive the reading of the resolution was made by Pat Maikowski and seconded by Rich Balducci and was approved unanimously. The corrected Resolution is attached to these minutes.

Motion to approve item #1 was made by Marilyn Malcarne and seconded by Russ Marth.

**ITEM 1. - To discuss and vote on a Resolution:**

- (a) To appropriate \$1,200,000 for the purchase of the following Town assets: \$400,000 for one tanker truck for the Fire Department; \$200,000 for one plow truck for the Public Works Department; \$500,000 for radios and radio system improvements for the Fire Department, Public Works Department, WPCA, and Ambulance, Emergency Management and Town Hall operations; and \$100,000 for a breathing air filling station for the Fire Department;**
- (b) To finance the appropriation by issuing the Town's bonds, notes or other obligations in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000, reduced by any grants received by and allocated to the purchases by the Town, including up to**

**\$300,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated to the purchases;**

- (c) To authorize the First Selectman and Treasurer to determine the terms, conditions and other details of the bonds, notes or other obligations;**
- (d) To take actions under applicable Internal Revenue Service regulations to allow the Town to make temporary advances of available funds and reimburse the advances from the proceeds of borrowings and to issue the bonds, notes or other obligations on a tax-exempt basis; and**
- (e) To authorize the First Selectman to enter into contracts for the purchases and authorize Town officials and employees to take all other actions necessary to complete the purchases and issue the bonds, notes or other obligations to finance the appropriation.**

Discussion:

Eckenroth, Board of Finance Chair, presented the Capital Expense plan being discussed which is summarized below:

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FY '21 – '22 April 11 Increased Capital Request  
Sources and Uses of Funds

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Capital Needs:

|                                    |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Fire Department new air compressor | 100,000                 |
| New Tanker                         | 400,000                 |
| Trucks – Highway                   | 200,000                 |
| New radios                         | <u>500,000</u>          |
|                                    | <b><u>1,200,000</u></b> |

Sources:

|                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ARPA funding                    | 300,000                 |
| Transfer from Capital Funds     | 200,000                 |
| Fire Department contribution    | 125,000                 |
| Anticipated increased borrowing | <u>500,000</u>          |
|                                 | <b><u>1,125,000</u></b> |

|                                |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Deficit                        | -75,000 |
| Funded from unassigned surplus | 75,000  |

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Eckenroth added that it made sense to finance long lived items and that, with inflation currently at 7.5% and interest rates expected to rise, it would be prudent to start financing soon.

The floor was then opened for questions:

- Mike Dinello, 209 Main Street asked for diversity in allocating ARPA funds. McDonald noted that he had hoped to use the ARPA funds as follows: 50% for capital expenses, 25% for economic development and 25% for social services. Dinello also asked about the Fire Department radio equipment and its longevity. Tim Lee, Fire Chief, explained the current UHF radio system was becoming obsolete. This capital expense would include not just radio equipment but also 20 years of CT State Police level communication service.
- Jane Samuels, 24 Elm Street asked about ARPA funds being used for our schools. McDonald explained that ARPA money being given specifically to schools was called ESRA money and is separate from the community funding we're discussing. The schools have already received half of their ESRA funding. He assured her that the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen were being very careful to follow the ARPA rules and to file the proper reports.
- Dylin Grzybowski, 22 Hemlock Terrace asked if two highway trucks couldn't be purchased instead for the same price as the one proposed. McDonald explained that they were replacing our bigger truck. We already have three smaller trucks and an additional truck would require hiring another driver which would offset any savings.

Fire Chief Lee stated that the department was happy with this plan. He clarified that the \$125,000 Fire Department contribution was from fundraising and grants. He added that such funds had also been used to pay for brush trucks, a fire boat, an addition to the Winthrop Fire Station and the 51 Union Street property in the past.

There being no further discussion, a voice vote was held. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Motion was made by Carmela Balducci and seconded by Jim Olson to adjourn. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

ATTEST: Amy M. Winchell, Town Clerk