



## Special Town Meeting

September 27, 2023

A Special Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 27, 2023, in the Richard H. Smith Town Hall Auditorium. The meeting was attended by the Board of Selectmen including First Selectman Angus McDonald and Selectman James Olson and our Registrars of Voters. Also in attendance were representatives of the Region 4 school system Superintendent Brian White and Finance Director Robert Grissom along with approximately 35 residents.

First Selectman Angus McDonald called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. George Eckenroth made a motion to appoint Rick Daniels as moderator which was seconded by Carol Jones. The motion was approved unanimously. Daniels appointed Amy Winchell to act as clerk of the meeting. Daniels then read the call.

Motion to approve Item #1 was made by Jonathan Kastner and seconded by Jones.

- 1. To approve actions of the Board of Selectmen's special meeting of September 12, 2023 and Board of Finance's special meeting of August 22, 2023:**
  - a. To appropriate up to \$500,000 for the purchase of the following Town assets: \$330,000 for one street sweeper; \$100,000 for one woodchipper; \$30,000 for self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for the Fire Department and \$30,000 for costs of issuance.**
  - b. To finance the appropriation by issuing the Town's bonds, notes or other obligations in an amount not to exceed \$500,000, reduced by any grants received by and allocated to the purchases by the Town;**
  - 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: McDonald noted that the Town is anticipating an approximate \$700,000 surplus as a result of unexpected revenue from streams such as building permits. They expect this surplus to allow these expenditures and to build up our reserve fund to about 12%-13%.

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

Motion to approve Item #2 was made by Jackie Calamari and seconded by Eckenroth.

**2. To approve actions of the Board of Selectmen's special meeting of September 12, 2023 and Board of Finance's special meeting of August 22, 2023:**

- a. To appropriate \$150,000 from the reserve fund to the road maintenance budget line to cover the cost of additional paving.

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

Motion to approve Item #3a was made by Miriam Morrissey and seconded by Betsy Scholfield.

**3. To approve actions of the Board of Selectmen's and Board of Finance's special meeting of September 12, 2023:**

- a. To appropriate an expenditure of \$152,197.95 from the reserve fund to Deep River Elementary school to cover an unanticipated expense.

Discussion: McDonald noted that this expense did not exist at the time the budget was being created and approved. Kathryn Russell asked for more detail.

Superintendent White explained that most of the information was protected by HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) but that the expense was needed for programming for an individual student which is required by law.

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

Motion to approve Item #3b was made by Scholfield and seconded by Eckenroth.

**b. To appropriate \$50,000 from the reserve fund to supplement the Urban Act Grant of \$325,000 for playground equipment.**

Discussion: McDonald explained that a requirement of this grant is for the Town to contribute \$50,000 toward the purchase of \$375,000 worth of playground equipment with the grant covering the remaining \$325,000. Russell asked if this was the same \$1,000,000 grant from before. McDonald responded that there is no \$1,000,000 grant but there is a STEAP grant that provides \$433,000 towards a new pavilion and restroom facility at Plattwood Park but that is separate from this Urban Act grant. The Town has already voted to contribute \$100,000 to supplement the STEAP grant.

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

A motion to adjourn was made by Olson and seconded by Eckenroth. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:14pm.

ATTEST: Amy M. Winchell, MCTC, Town Clerk