

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017  
7:00-8:00 A.M. Town Office Meeting Room

Attendees:

Budget Committee: Andy Walsh, Bill Whitten, Kevin Desmond, Pam Ames, Paul Metevier

Absent: Grace Lovell, Sandy Falsey

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 a.m.

**Town Meeting Warrant Article 18** (create a committed fund balance account to be expended in future years for providing property tax assistance...):

The town does not yet know how many people 70 years and older will apply and qualify for the Property Tax Assistance program, but we do have a ballpark idea (based on demographic data) of how many seniors live in North Yarmouth. The Budget Committee is concerned that because this tax assistance fund will be a committed fund, the money won't be available if a town emergency arises.

Bill Whitten made a **motion** to amend Article 18 to reduce the authorization to **\$30,000** from the Undesignated Fund Balance to be set aside for property tax assistance. (i.e. reduce the amount being transferred by \$20,000)

-Seconded by Pam Ames

**Vote 5-0**

**Town Meeting Warrant Article 10** Public Works Dept. / Operating Expenses (Acct. #140 PWD / #5558 Crack sealing)

Rosemary spoke to our PWD Director on March 16 to find out how much money needs to be budgeted for crack sealing if we continue with the current number of employees. Clark felt that \$8,000 would allow the department to rent a larger piece of equipment and maximize the staffing effort.

Andy Walsh made a **motion** to amend Article 10 to **add \$3,000** (for a total of \$8,000 in this line item) allocated to crack sealing, thereby revising the total Operating Expenses line to **\$208,915**.

-Seconded by Pam Ames

**Vote 5-0**

**Discussion of Personal Property Tax:**

The Select Board has voted to discontinue collecting the (Business) Personal Property Tax. The Budget Committee favors the town continuing to collect this business tax, so that North Yarmouth can fully represent its Valuation Base; thereby, adding to the town's revenues *to help keep the mil rate down*. North Yarmouth has been collecting Personal Property Tax for years and other towns capture this tax from their businesses. The state assumes that we are still collecting it, so the state might be inclined in the future to push more funding down to the town level.

**Discussion of Undesignated Fund Balance:**

Linked to this concern about Personal Property Tax, the Budget Committee is also concerned that the Undesignated Fund Balance will soon fall below the auditor's guidelines of having a two-month reserve in place to meet any unexpected emergencies. The town uses funds from the UFB *to help keep the mil rate down*.

Upcoming meetings:

The Select Board will sign the Warrant on March 21 without meeting with the Budget Committee; therefore, we won't have an opportunity to discuss our variances before Town Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela Ames  
Secretary