

**Wakefield Budget Committee
Paul School
January 5, 2005**

Present: Judy Nason, Chairperson; Dean Giffin, Paul Winckler, Peter Kasprzyk, John Citron, Dave Stevens, Al Huntoon, Nate Fogg, Paul Morrill, Howie Knight and Nancy Spencer Smith

Wakefield School Board Members: Rod Cools, Joe Fleck, Laurie Howe, Nate Fogg (representative to the Budget Committee).

Also present: Matt Jozokos, Principal; Bill Lander, Superintendent of Schools; Robin Frost, Town Administrator, Mark Duffy and John Blackwood, Selectmen.

Call to Order: Judy Nason called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Joe Fleck reported to the Budget Committee that the School Board has made a decision not to propose any new construction project for 2005-2006 but to explore possible property that this owned by the Town of Wakefield. The School will look to do internal modifications before proposing a new school.

Joe Fleck explained the purpose of Article #4 to take \$200,000 from the year end unreserved fund balance to establish an expendable trust fund for the purpose of constructing a new school building or addition to the Paul School.

Any surplus up to \$200,000 from the 2004-2005 school district budget will be placed in an expendable trust fund. The Budget Committee discussed a bond issue instead of creating a trust fund. Joe Fleck explained that by establishing a trust fund it is an attempt to take small bites out of the future construction project. John Citron felt that the Warrant Article was misleading as it still affects the tax rate. Judy Nason stated that the \$200,000 is already in the approved budget. Mark Duffy stated that it is a way of putting away money for big ticket items. Paul Winckler stated that the money will be used for a new school and it is already appropriated.

Dave Stevens made a motion recommend Warrant Article #4, seconded by Paul Winckler. The motion passed with John Citron and Nancy Spencer Smith opposed.

Warrant Article #3: Proposed Warrant Article #3 is to raise and appropriate \$11,000 for the purpose of upgrading the Paul School ball field. The Budget Committee discussed the cost of upgrading the infield only. The Budget Committee felt that the estimate of \$11,000 is too high. Peter Kasprzyk questioned the Cal Ripken requirements. Dave Stevens felt that more information was needed in order to make a decision.

Dave Stevens made a motion not to recommend \$11,000 for proposed Article #3, seconded by John Citron. The motion passed with Nate Fogg opposed.

**Wakefield Budget Committee
January 5, 2005
Page 2**

The Public Hearing for the Wakefield School District will be on January 17, 2005 at 7:00 PM. Snow date will be January 18, 2005.

The Budget Committee concluded their business with the Wakefield School District at 8:00 PM.

**Wakefield Budget Committee
Town of Wakefield**

John Citron left the meeting at 8:00 PM.

The Budget Committee discussed the Town Warrant Articles.

Warrant Article #17: Paul Morrill recommended \$18,000 to purchase not lease a truck for the Code Enforcement Officer. The Town has received a quote from Miller Auto for \$17,800. Currently the Code Enforcement Officer is reimbursed approximately \$8,000 in mileage allowance. Dave Stevens asked about using an old Police Cruiser or a truck from the landfill.

Paul Morill made a motion to approve \$18,000 to purchase a truck for the Code Enforcement Officer, seconded by Howie Knight. The motion passed with Dave Stevens opposed.

The Budget Committee discussed the replacement of Engine 2 with a new engine. There is currently approximately \$112,000 in the trust fund and it will cost approximately \$250,000 to purchase a new truck. Trucks can take up to 1 year after they are ordered. There may be grant funds available to help with the cost. The Warrant Article is requesting \$49,800 for the fire truck. The Town will pursue a grant.

The Town is proposing \$5,000 for the Technology Fund. Police Chief Tim Merrill would like to request funds to purchase software for the Police Department. This software will save the Police Department significant time.

Peter Kasprzyk feels that money in the Technology Fund has not been spent as originally intended. There is no public access to tax records as originally promised. Mark Duffy is looking into tapping into the tax assessing software.

Paul Morrill made a motion to amend the Warrant Article from \$5,000 to \$15,000, seconded by Howie Knight. The motion passed with Peter Kasprzyk opposed.

**Wakefield Budget Committee
January 5, 2005
Page 3**

Paul Morrill made a motion to amend the Workers Compensation line under General Government to \$23,925, seconded by Paul Winckler. The motion passed unanimously.

The Town of Wakefield has a new health insurance plan. The Town is able to offer a better plan for the Town employees at a cost savings. The employees will contribute 10% toward the insurance plan.

Paul Morrill made a motion to amend the health insurance line to \$247,038, seconded by Howie Knight. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul Morrill made a motion to amend the Retirees line to \$17,818, seconded by Howie Knight. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul Morrill made a motion to increase the Dues Expense under General Administration to \$3,755, seconded by Nancy Spencer Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

The only issue remaining for the Town Warrant Articles is the Fire Truck. Judy Nason is concerned over the waiting period as Engine 2 is not in good shape. Judy suggested using surplus funds to order the truck. Peter Kasprzyk reminded the Committee that Wakefield is part of the mutual aid system and that we have help from surrounding Town's if needed.

The total Town budget after amendments is \$3,757,712.

Judy Nason made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Paul Morrill. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne N. Dolbear
Secretary