

**Wakefield Budget Committee
January 17, 2005
Wakefield Town Hall**

Present: Judy Nason, Chairperson; John Citron, Al Huntoon, Dave Stevens, Peter Kasprzyk, Nate Fogg, Paul Winckler and Paul Morrill.

Mark Duffy and John Blackwood Selectmen. Robin Frost, Town Administrator.

Also present, Bill Lander, Superintendent of Schools; Matt Jozokos, Principal; Laurie Howe, Joe Fleck, Rod Cools and Jason Brown, members of the Wakefield School Board.

**Public Hearing
Town of Wakefield**

Call to Order: Judy Nason called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 PM.

Article 1, 2 and 3 are not money Warrant Articles.

Article X1: \$15,000 for the Technology Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund. The current balance in this fund is \$25,017. The Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article X2: \$10,000 for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Capital Reserve Fund. The Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article X3: \$15,000 for the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund. The ambulance is replaced every 10 years. The Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article X4: \$49,800 for the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. A new truck costs approximately \$250,000. The Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article X5: \$8,300 for the Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Paul Morrill stated that an excavator will most likely be the next piece of heavy equipment purchased for approximately \$40,000. The Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article X6: \$15,000 for the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund. There is currently \$41,491 in the fund. A new truck costs approximately \$65,000 and is scheduled to be purchased in 2006. The Budget Committee recommends this article.

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Article X7: \$20,000 for the Invasive Species Expendable Trust. There is currently \$36,247 in the fund. Nancy Bancroft asked what the funds are to be used for. Paul Morrill replied that Belleau Lake and Balch Lake have requested \$5,000 each from the fund to assist with eradication of milfoil. Nancy asked if funds were spent

on the monitor at the public docks. Paul Morrill replied that a public hearing would be necessary to consider that request. Judy Nason stated that grant money has been applied for. The Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article X8: \$29,330 for the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund. Paul Morrill stated that a new vehicle is purchased every year. The Town currently has 4 cruisers and will have 5 if this warrant article passes. The Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article X9: \$20,000 for the Public Safety Building Capital Reserve Fund. There is currently \$81,754 in the fund. The plan is to install an elevator or lift to the second floor. Paul Morrill estimates that it will cost between \$30,000 and \$60,000 to install the elevator. The Town will be applying for grant money from Emergency Management funds or Homeland Security money. The Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article X10: \$100,000 for the Town Hall Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. The money is to be appropriated through undesignated fund balance and no money is to be raised through new taxation. There is currently \$8,060 in the fund. Paul Morrill explained that the Opera House has fire code and life safety issues and in order to use the space structural work will need to be done. The Town is in the process of renovating the basement for additional space. The comprehensive plan is to restore the Town Hall from basement to Opera House. The Town will be looking for grants, foundation money and use of the Capital Reserve to complete the project. The total cost of restoration is unknown. The Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article X11: \$21,345 for the Transfer Station Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. There is currently \$11,379 in the fund. This will be used to purchase Transfer Station equipment. The Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article X12: \$15,000 for the Town Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund. This will be used for stumping and seeding the new cemetery off of Route 109. The Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article X13: \$5,000 for the Bridge Construction Capital Reserve. This fund is to save for bridges that will need replacing in the future. The next bridge scheduled for replacement/repair is the Pine River Pond Road Bridge. The Budget Committee recommends this article.

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Article X14: \$100,000 for the Conservation Fund. The money is to be appropriated through undesignated fund balance and no money is to be raised through taxation. Paul Morrill explained that the Town approved a warrant article several years ago to take \$25,000 out of the land use penalty fees and put it into the Conservation fund. The Town received revenue of \$230,000 last year. The Town is recommending that the limit be raised to \$100,000. Nancy Bancroft asked what the money would be used for. Peter K. replied that the money will be used to purchase development rights from developers. There are restrictions on use of this money and any expenditure would be approved by the Selectmen. The Conservation Commission is not allowed to use the money for lobbyists or special interest groups. The money is to be spent in Wakefield. Nancy Bancroft asked if the fund could be used to help fight milfoil. Paul Morrill replied that milfoil is being dealt with by the Lake Associations. The Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article X15: To see if the Town will vote to increase to \$100,000 the maximum yearly amount of land use change tax penalties collected and placed into the Conservation Fund. The Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article X16: Not a money article.

Article X17: \$18,000 for the purchase of a 4 x 4 light duty truck for the Code Enforcement Department. Paul Morrill explained that this is a new warrant article. The Code Enforcement Officer was reimbursed more than \$8,000 in mileage last year. It makes sense for the town to purchase a truck. The Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article X18: \$12,000 for the purchase of an OHRV and trailer for the Fire Department. This will be a track vehicle and will be used both winter and summer to access areas for rescue and for fire. The Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article X19: This article is to approve the Town Budget.

Other Business: Nancy Bancroft (representing the Supervisor's of the Checklist) requested that \$3,171 be added to the Voter Registration budget to cover the cost of new training. Nancy stated that the State is implementing a new program and it will take approximately 75 hours of time to comply and 25 hours to train. Paul Morrill suggested that the Supervisors of the Checklist meet with the Town Administrator to discuss the request. Paul stated that budget can be increased at the Deliberative Session. The Selectmen would like more information before they approve the request.

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Judy Nason asked if there were any questions on the Budget.

Joe Fleck asked why the money for invasive species was not requested out of the fund balance. Judy Nason replied that the Selectmen chose to use the fund balance for renovations to the Town Hall and for the Conservation Commission.

The Public Hearing for the Town Budget and Warrant Articles adjourned at 8:15 PM.