

Wakefield Budget Committee Meeting
with the Water Precinct
held in the Town Hall Opera House
March 9, 2023
Approved

Members present: Jerry O'Connor, Tom Daniels, Priscilla Colbath, Dave Mankus Elizabeth Conner, Bob Ouellette, Peter Kasprzyk, Mark Taliaferro and Michelle Keating and Max Gering with Clearview Community TV

Mr. O'Connor opened up the Budget Committee meeting at 6:42 to review the Water Precinct's operating Budget and Warrant Articles prior to the Public Hearing.

Leak repairs have gone down. Mr. Kasprzyk said all the state roads have been completed and one needs to be charged. They're working on the town roads now. Mr. Daniels asked why legal fees had increased. Mr. Kasprzyk said they changed legal counsel, to the same one that the town has. Mr. Daniels said your operating budget is up 3.4%.

Mr. Daniels made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, to approve the operating budget of \$438,350. (Vote 7-0-1)

They are not anticipating any rate changes up or down this year. The commissioners brought in a remote reader and explained how it works. They are planning to use these so the meters may be read by just driving by a building or home. Meter reading will be reduced from two days to two hours. They said this would be a cost savings and perhaps meters will be read quarterly to make it easier for the homeowner to budget. Each reader cost \$200 and they have a twenty year warranty.

They are running about 65,000 gallons of water a day now as opposed to the 90,000 gallons and up a day previously. The remote reader also detects a spike in water usage from a leak or running toilet. They now have a contracted licensed systems operator. They are about two thirds through the project they still have a few more roads to do. They are looking to put in a booster station also. They have not found land for a well and are putting that off for a while. Mr. Kasprzyk will go to a Planning Board meeting to encourage them to incorporate in any easement for anything possibly setting aside an area for a public well on conserved land.

Mr. O'Connor read the following articles:

Article 2 To see if the village district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to be added to the Emergency CRF previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. Recommendations Required. (Majority vote required)

Mrs. Colbath made a motion, seconded by Mr. Daniels, to approve Article 2. (Vote 7-0-1)

Article 3 To see if the village district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$65,000 to be added to the technology CRF previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund

balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. Recommendations Required. (Majority vote required)

Mr. Daniels made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, to approve Article 3. (Vote 7-0-1)

Article 4 To see if the village district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to be added to the Wells CRF previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. Recommendations Required. (Majority vote required)

Mr. Daniels made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, to approve Article 4. (Vote 7-0-1)

Article 5 To see if the village district will vote to establish a Pump House Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for Pump House and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Precinct Commissioners as agents to expend from said fund. The funds to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. Recommendations Required (Majority Vote Required)

Mr. Daniels made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Conner, to approve Article 5. (Vote 7-0-1)

Article 6 To see if the village district will vote to establish a Tank Rehab/Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for Tank Rehab/Maintenance and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Precinct Commissioners as agents to expend from said fund. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be No amount to be raised from taxation. Recommendations Required (Majority Vote Required)

Mr. Daniels made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Conner, to approve Article 6. (Vote 7-0-1)

Public Hearing

Mr. O'Connor opened the Public Hearing at 7:22.

Mr. Kasprzyk said they now have a website. They are accepting electronic payments now. They are doing everything they can to make the department efficient.

Mr. O'Connor closed the Public Hearing at 7:24.

They will have their annual meeting in April.

Mrs. Colbath made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Conner, to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 (Vote 8-0)

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next Budget Committee meeting,

Priscilla Colbath
Secretary Pro Temp

