

FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING

June 1, 2015

Call to Order

Moderator John Murphy called the Annual Financial Town Meeting to order at 7:41 p.m. in the Lawn Avenue School Gymnasium, 55 Lawn Avenue, Jamestown, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Council members present:

Kristine S. Trocki, President
Mary E. Meagher, Vice President
Blake A. Dickinson
Michael G. White
Thomas P. Tighe

Also in attendance:

John A. Murphy, Town Moderator
Andrew E. Nota, Town Administrator
Christina D. Collins, Finance Director
James R. Bryer, Jr., Fire Chief
Lisa W. Bryer, Town Planner
Donna J. Fogarty, Library Director
Kenneth S. Gray, Tax Assessor
Edward A. Mello, Police Chief
Fred F. Pease, Town Sergeant
William J. Piva, Recreation Director
Howard F. Tighe, Deputy Fire Chief
Wyatt A. Brochu, Town Solicitor
David R. Petrarca, Jr., Town Solicitor
Cheryl A. Fernstrom, Town Clerk

School Committee members present:

Catherine L. Kaiser, Chair
Julia Held, Vice Chair
Sarah Baines
Bruce Whitehouse
Melissa Mastrostefano

Also in attendance:

Carol A. Blanchette, Superintendent
Jane Littlefield, Director of Finance
Lewis W. Kitts, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Carole Melucci, Melrose School Principal

Budget Process, Meeting Procedures and Voting Overview

Town Moderator Murphy stated this is the largest FTM gathering since 2010 and the Board of Canvassers will report the number of voters present shortly. Moderator Murphy alerted those in attendance to the location of all the exits in case of an emergency. The members and staff of the Jamestown School and the Fire Department and EMS were thanked for setting up this room for tonight's meeting. Our objective tonight is to have a fair, open and efficient meeting.

Explanation of the Financial Town Meeting format, which operates under State law, followed. Moderator Murphy stated Town Council President Kristine Trocki will speak on behalf of the budget for general Town services. School Committee Chair Cathy Kaiser will speak on behalf of the School Department part of the budget. All guests should be seated in the cafeteria.

Speaking at the FTM

Moderator Murphy stated discussion and voting is limited to registered voters (those who received white cards). However, a department spokesperson who is not a voter may answer a question directed to them by the Moderator. Voters wishing to speak must use the microphone provided, stating their name and address. Discussion is limited to three minutes per voter, and voters were asked to avoid statements presented in previous voter comments.

Voting on Motions

Moderator Murphy explained that voting on motions is as follows: the first alternative is to have a voice vote. Voters in favor of a motion are called upon to speak (not yell) "yes." The Moderator will then call for the voters opposed to that motion to speak (not yell) "no." If there is no clear majority voice vote, there will be a call for raising hands or a standing vote, holding up the white card to identify you as a voter. The Board of Canvassers will assist with the counting of these votes. Voters were requested not to move about the room while hand or standing counts are being taken. If a voter requests, and twenty percent of the registered voters present at this meeting support that request, we will have a paper ballot. Our Town Charter requires that any proposal to amend the Council's recommended budget by \$10,000 or more be filed in writing 20 days in advance of this meeting. We have received two such filings. So there can be such motions to amend the budget. Once a motion is seconded, we can proceed to vote on the motion or engage in discussion pertaining to the motion.

Town Council President Kristine Trocki

Moderator Murphy introduced President Trocki, who thanked Moderator Murphy and addressed the assembled voters:

Good evening, I'm Kristine Trocki, President of the Jamestown Town Council. On behalf of the Town Council and the School Committee, I would like to thank you for joining us this evening.

I am proud to be part of tonight's Financial Town Meeting, a tradition that dates back over 300 years. As stated last year, Jamestown's first gathered together in 1678 to address their needs, costs and concerns of what it takes to live on this beautiful island. We are continuing this process tonight by outlining priorities, developing, and hopefully, approving a budget that we believe will add services and improve the quality of life for all residents.

By way of background, although the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget is a year-round process, the formal structure begins in the months of December and January. It is at this time Town Administrator Andy Nota lays out the process and timeline for individual town departments and staff to develop recommendations. These recommendations are then submitted to Andy for consideration. He reviews each request in light of community priorities while balancing the Town's most immediate needs with the financial impact on Town residents.

In order to provide as much community input as possible, the Town Council held a total of six public workshops to allow for sufficient time to discuss and review the Town Administrator's and School Department's budget recommendations. Since January 1, 2015, not including today's FTM, 6 Water and Sewer meetings, or executive sessions, we as a Council have met on 32 separate occasions. As the weeks progressed and more information was provided by department heads and the public, the budget was continuously updated and refined by the Town Council, School Committee, and the Town Administrator.

Jamestown has continued to offer its residents some of the lowest tax rates, high quality municipal services, and an amazing community-based quality of life. In FY 2015 Jamestown was able to again offer the third lowest residential tax rate, third lowest commercial rate and fourth lowest motor vehicle rate in RI.

In spite of what you may have recently read in the *Jamestown Press* regarding affordability and expenditure increases in recent years, we as a community have only realized a tax rate increase totaling 3 cents over an entire three-year period. As you remember there was no tax increase last year or the year before. The Capital Program over the past three years has been targeted at improving the community's infrastructure through one-time investments in the Town's roads, drainage systems, buildings, parks and various shoreline improvements. These are all important projects for our community and when combined with the quality and scope of services that we also enjoy, these are all achievements that we should be proud of. The consistent level of financial stability and professional management that we as Jamestowners have grown accustomed to in our community should be commended. For this I applaud the Town and School Administrations and Staff. This year's recommended budget delivers the same financial stability, professional management and improvements to our quality of life.

The proposed Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget includes a 1.1% increase in the Tax Levy, which is an increase of \$.03 cents on the Residential and Commercial Tax Rates from \$8.75 cents to \$8.78 cents. Luckily, Jamestown is fortunate enough to be expecting an increase again in both Local and State revenues. We are anticipating a combined increase totaling \$90,771.00 in the coming year. The Town's Unassigned Reserve remains funded at a very favorable level as of June 30, 2014, with the Town and Schools combined Unassigned Fund Balance totaling \$4,614,563.00 or 20.74% of the Total Town and School Budgets.

The Town alone carries an Unassigned Fund total of \$3,767,245.00 or 16.93%. Translation... our town is fiscally healthy. Priorities in the Operating Program for this year worthy of special comment include monies to complete funding for a full year of the Advanced Life Support (ALS) program with the Fire Department EMS Division. This program has been offered to residents since February. It has been very well received and has already made a significant impact in the quality and scope of medical care and services offered in the community. The monies necessary to complete this funding totals an additional \$96,462.00.

The EMS budget expenditure program totals \$402,130.00 and includes projected revenues totaling \$186,000.00 with a net balance funded by local taxes of \$216,130.00. This budget's recommended increase of \$96,462.00 represents 68.5% of the proposed town-wide operating budget increase of \$140,761.00.

Although we as residents faced a 20-25% increase in our electricity rates, the Town realized a 50% increase that we will need to address over a two year contract period. This utility cost adjustment alone totals \$66,990.00. This represents 47.6% of the total \$140,761.00 increase in the operating budget. Thus, if you take the combined increase in the EMS budget to support the Advanced Life Support services, AND the 50% increase in electricity costs alone together they *exceed* the \$140,761.00 increase that is being proposed for this year. Early in the budget process, health and dental benefit costs were estimated to possibly rise as much as 10% for the next year, although we appear fortunate to have averted any increase for this \$681,500.00 line item. The Town works collaboratively with the RI Interlocal Trust Health Care Pool that has assisted us greatly in managing annual costs and mitigating future increases. In recent months significant discussion has occurred surrounding the proposed consolidation of the Fire Department and EMS Division into an upgraded facility on Narragansett Avenue. This discussion has been detailed and transparent in terms of its content, broad in terms of its scope, and conscientious in terms of acknowledging questions raised by neighbors and the business community. This project as proposed before you tonight in Resolution Number 5 will allow the community to address the immediate infrastructure and equipment needs of the Fire Department, provide critical support and training opportunities for our hard working and committed volunteers, and does so in a fiscally responsible way that will serve our community's public safety needs for several decades to come.

Moving on to our Town's Capital Program. The Town's Capital Program is recommended to decrease by \$167,000.00 from last year. In spite of this reduction, this year's Capital program targets numerous areas of need within the community, including:

- 1) A continued commitment to the Pavement Management Program to improve our road network;
- 2) The first of four phases of North Road improvements, beginning with an improved drainage system;
- 3) A continuation of Fort Getty improvements, to complete the work begun this spring at the Rembijas Pavilion;
- 4) The final phase of design work on the shared path/pedestrian/bicycle connector at the North Reservoir to provide for safe travel for residents, especially children in the Shores area and the North End, which will provide access to the soccer fields and the east side of the island (avoiding dangerous North Road). The proposed bike path also includes the added benefit of improved maintenance access to the reservoir.

Also included are:

- 5) Improvements to our ball fields, basketball courts, and bathrooms at Mackerel Cove
- 6) In addition, there are several Public Safety Enhancements including:
 - * A portable generator for use at Town Hall and other municipal buildings;
 - * Expanded fuel storage capacity to support first responders and emergency operations during these events;
 - * As well as exterior building improvements at the Old Highway Barn at Fort Wetherill, which includes roof repairs to provide a dry and safe environment for the Parks Department operations and equipment storage for various Town Departments; and, finally,
 - * A more comprehensive program designed to improve several of the Town's Parks and Recreation indoor and outdoor facilities.

These community priorities as proposed, as well as others listed within the Town and School Operating and Capital Programs, address our community's needs in a fair, thoughtful and fiscally responsible fashion and deserve your support.

As my fellow Town Councilor, Mary Meagher, recently stated:

"Like any homeowner, the town must make investments in the repair and improvements of its infrastructure or risk having to make bigger investments in the future. Like any homeowner, we must balance an increase in expenses (including electricity costs that shot up by 50% this year) with a careful review of what is

necessary and required. We have done that this year. Just as we did it last year and the year before that.”

Just to be clear, I want to remind you of some of the capital improvements that have been made over the course of these past two years. These include:

- 1) A new roof and public restrooms at the Rec Center;
- 2) Fort Getty improvements (including parking, landscaping, and drainage);
- 3) Major road improvements and seawall repairs, as well as other necessary repairs from major storms such as Hurricane Sandy and Winter Storm Nemo;
- 4) Funding for the development of a seawall for Bay View Drive (work to begin this coming winter);
- 5) Tennis courts and funding towards dune restoration at Mackerel Cove;
- 6) New windows and exterior restoration of the old Highway Barn at Fort Wetherill, as well as
- 7) Continual upgrades and upkeep of our equipment and public safety fleet, to name a few.

I believe this proposed budget is fiscally conservative. I know the Town is fiscally sound. The Capital Improvements we've made over the past two years, as well as the Capital Improvements we are proposing in this budget, are not only necessary, but are designed to improve services, the integrity of our building and infrastructures, and the safety and quality of life of our residents. This benefits all of us, as well as our future generations to come.

Thus, the argument to decrease this proposed budget by \$140,761.00 (when in reality we have already decreased the capital program by \$167,000.00 from last year, I believe would be detrimental. I believe it would also undo the collective effort by all of those whom we've entrusted, who have been deeply involved and assigned the extraordinary task of continuously balancing the budget, day by day, line item by line item.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Town Administrator Andy Nota, Finance Director Tina Collins, Superintendent Carol Blanchette and Director of Finance Jane Littlefield, who were instrumental during the most critical months of our budget process. I really want to commend Andy Nota for his painstakingly thorough review of all of our budgets from top to bottom with a fresh approach. This strict scrutiny allowed for outdated line items to be eliminated or re-categorized for greater transparency. I also thank the School Committee team, led by Cathy Kaiser, my fellow Town Councilors, and ALL of the department heads who carefully "sharpened their pencils" and made this Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget possible for the residents and taxpayers of Jamestown.

*With these efforts, the recommended, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ALL 5 TOWN COUNCILORS, Annual Town budget for **Fiscal Year 2015-2016 is \$10,424,047.00.** The recommended, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ALL 5*

TOWN COUNCILORS, Jamestown School Department budget is \$12,526,457.00. The total recommended Town and School Department budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 totals \$22,950,504.00.

On behalf of the Town Council, I respectfully request your support for the **Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget AS IT IS PRESENTED. Thank you. (applause)**

Moderator Murphy thanked President Trocki for sharing that information.

Canvassers Count of Voters Present

The Board of Canvassers advised there were 508 voters present.

School Committee Chair Cathy Kaiser

Moderator Murphy introduced Chairwoman Kaiser, who thanked Moderator Murphy and addressed the assembled voters:

School budgets are a challenge for the public to navigate because the format must conform to the Department of Education's Uniformed Chart of Accounts. The published budget you received as an insert in the Jamestown Press has 16 lines devoted to the school budget; the budget approved by the school committee – and available on the school website – has over 500 line items. It's a lot to digest.

Thanks to zero-based budgeting, however, the community can have confidence that the budget before you tonight represents a judicious use of taxpayer dollars. This method of budgeting, by definition, produces numbers that correspond directly to needs rather than the previous year's figures "plus-some."

In generating the school budget, Jamestown's administrative team reviews the effectiveness of programs and staffing, making changes and re-allocating funds to meet the prioritized needs of the student population. For example, one need addressed in this budget is the number of students requiring additional support in reading. In the current model, our special educators provide reading support; adding a certified K-8 reading teacher will allow us to expand upon those supports and to intervene before students are referred to special education services. It's an important shift in roles based on the current needs of our student population. This budget eliminates one special educator position and re-directs those funds to hire the K-8 reading teacher.

In the seven years that we have employed zero-based budgeting, the required town contribution has fluctuated within a 2% range – with three years seeing an increase and four seeing a decrease. This budget calls for a half-percent increase in the town contribution, to total \$10,710,950. That figure is still a half million dollars below the town contribution of FY2010, the year we first instituted zero-based budgeting.

One of the key factors contributing to this difference is that we are again funding the yearly cost of retiree benefits from the school reserves rather than including this expense in the town contribution. We caution that this is a strategy we will have to re-evaluate every budget season. If the annual cost of these benefits continues to exceed our total annual surplus, this strategy will not be sustainable in the long term. For now, however, we consider it a reasonable step on behalf of our island taxpayers.

Zero-based budgeting creates a culture of cost management, but it is not a panacea. Employing this method does not guarantee low budget increases. In any given year, new needs or non-discretionary items such as utilities or health insurance costs can drive up budget totals. However, whether zero-based budgeting results in an increase or a decrease, the community can be confident that the final budget addresses the district's needs and provides a healthy, challenging learning environment for Jamestown students.

The budget before you was passed by unanimous vote of the school committee. As we ask for your approval tonight, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of our Finance Director, Jane Littlefield, and the leadership of Superintendent Carol Blanchette, who is joining us for her first Jamestown Financial Town Meeting.

Thank you, Carol. Thank you, members of the Town Council, and special thanks to all of you for coming out tonight. You are the public in public education. (applause)

Moderator Murphy thanked Chairwoman Kaiser and members of the school committee for the important work they do.

Resolution Votes

In consideration of the volunteer citizens who responded to the fire call, the Moderator suggested taking several housekeeping matters outlined in the Warrant as Resolutions 1, 2 and 3 in the budget brochure.

Resolution Number 1 – Sewer Line Frontage Tax Rate

Moderator Murphy entertained a motion to approve Resolution 1 – Sewer Line Frontage Tax Rate.

A motion was made by Council President Trocki with second by a member of the voters present to adopt Resolution 1. There was no discussion. Moderator Murphy called all those in favor of Resolution 1 say yes; “Yes”. All those opposed say no. (no response). The motion passes unanimously.

Resolution Number 2 – Borrowing in Anticipation of Taxes

Moderator Murphy entertained a motion to adopt Resolution 2 – Borrowing in Anticipation of Taxes.

A motion was made by Council President Trocki with second by a member of the voters present to adopt Resolution 2. Moderator Murphy called all those in favor of Resolution 2 say yes; “Yes”. All those opposed say no; (no response). The motion passes unanimously.

Resolution Number 3 – Disposition of Collected Back Taxes

Moderator Murphy entertained a motion to adopt Resolution 3 – Disposition of Collected Back Taxes.

A motion was made by Council President Trocki with second by Council Member White to approve Resolution 3. All those in favor say yes; “Yes”. All those opposed say no. (no response). The motion passes unanimously.

(Fire Department and EMS volunteers return to the meeting.)

Voting on the Budget

Moderator Murphy calls for a motion to approve the general budget and noted the two resolutions to amend the budget.

A motion was made by Council Vice President Meagher with second by Council member White to adopt the General Town Budget.

Moderator Murphy states the following motion to amend the budget was received 20 days prior to the FTM as required by Charter:

A motion was made by Edward Sierra with a second by a voter present to amend the proposed Jamestown Town Council Total General Budget to \$10,283,286 the same as the current budget, this \$140,761 to be reduced from the Capital Improvement planned expenses.

Discussion. Edward Sierra of Decatur Avenue speaks to his motion asking for a taxpayer vote to amend the proposed budget to the same as this current year. Mr. Sierra explained the reasoning for that motion stating this proposed expenditure is more than double the budget of fifteen years ago. The budget and taxes will double again over the next fifteen years. Will incomes double? The town administration and town staff does an excellent job and should be commended. But we must show the way and be prudent in spending taxpayer dollars. He asks the people to vote a 0 increase over last year. At the conclusion of the discussion he moves for a paper ballot.

Moderator Murphy asks who wants to speak in support of that motion and who wants to speak in opposition to it. (No response/discussion) A voice vote is called for on the motion to amend.

All in favor of amending the general budget vote yes; “Yes”. All those opposed vote no; “No”. Moderator Murphy determined the motion to amend the budget failed by a majority vote in the negative.

Moderator Murphy states the following motion to amend was received prior to the 20 day requirement:

A motion was made by William C. Brennan with a second by a voter present to amend the proposed Jamestown Town Council Total General Budget, Capital Budget Improvement item:

Reducing the Bike Path Engineering to \$0;

Increasing the Road Improvement Program to \$400,000

Discussion. William Brennan of Narragansett Avenue stated over the last 20 years he has ridden about 25,000 miles around the Island, and Jamestown has some of the safest roads to ride on in the State. When this initiative was brought forward by previous Councils, the project was proposed to be paid for by the RI Department of Administration for \$33,000. He didn't believe the connector proposed would be utilized. There was no data to support use of the road by children. Carr Lane needs improvement, but serves as the appropriate connector road. Student population has decreased dramatically and 20% of students are from military families. Children won't ride just because there is a bike path; parents drive kids to school instead of taking the bus, so they won't let their children ride bikes to school. We should not encourage access to the reservoir, our only water source, but restrict access by putting up no trespassing signs and fencing. Our town roads are damaged from the severe winter and he feels the money would be better spent on road repair. He respectfully asks voters to support this initiative.

Moderator Murphy asked if anyone would like to speak in favor of the motion to amend. No one came forward to speak in support of the motion to amend.

Moderator Murphy asked if anyone would like to speak against the motion to amend.

Councilor Michael White of Conanicus Avenue stated he was involved with the Bike Path over the years as a member of previous Councils and Safe Routes to School. A number of studies and cost analysis were done. His grandchildren live on north end and he knows many people in the north end who would come into town via bicycle if access was available. Mr. White referenced his experiences in Los Angeles regarding the lack of curb cuts for handicap accessibility and the comments it didn't appear to be a necessity as handicapped citizens weren't trying to cross the street. He truly believes there is a great deal of interest in the project and the bike path would be well used. When initiated the original intention was there would be more money for road repair if the money was taken from the bike path, but there is no correlation between the two. He agrees Carr Lane could use some repair. To give our children and grandchildren a safe way to town would encourage bicycle travel. Having the bike path has a way of leading people away from

reservoir, as it goes away from the damn not towards the area, and it is a nice way of going over to the other side, and he supports the funding for it. (applause)

Julie Kallfelz of Green Lane stated she supports Mike White's statements. A number of us have worked to improve the number, quality and safety of pedestrian and bicycle paths from the north end, to the reservoir, to the soccer fields, and safe routes has been a priority. She speaks in support of the engineering study and it will prove that the bike path will improve the quality and safety of life in Jamestown. (applause)

Kate Smith of Spanker Street commented she is a cyclist and served on the original Bike Path Committee. The cross island connector was the first stage of a bigger picture. We definitely need to improve the roads in town including the dangerous North Road. The roads are a mess and the way they are paved is the worst thing for cyclists, and as a seasoned cyclist she would not let a child ride our roads. She referenced cycling in Europe, that all children use bicycles, and the dangerous driving habits exhibited here that make cycling dangerous. She is for the bike path and the engineering study.

Moderator Murphy calls for a vote on the motion to amend.

All those in favor of the amendment vote yes; "Yes". All those opposed vote no; "No". The no's have it. Mr. Brennan's motion is defeated by a majority vote in the negative.

Moderator Murphy stated we will vote on the General Town Budget as moved by the Town Council with no amendments.

All those in favor of the budget vote yes; "Yes". All those opposed vote no; "No". The yes's have it. The budget passes by a majority vote in the affirmative. (applause)

Moderator Murphy stated we will now vote on the School Budget and asked for a motion to approve.

A motion was made by School Committee Chair Kaiser with second by School Committee Member Whitehouse to approve the School Budget. There was no discussion. Moderator Murphy asked all those in favor of the School Budget as presented by the School Committee and Town Council say yes; "Yes". All those opposed vote no; "No". The School Budget passes by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Moderator Murphy asked if there were any other motions related to the two budgets adopted. There were none.

Resolution Number 4 – Setting the Tax Rate

President Trocki read the Town Budget is \$10,424,047.00, the School Budget is \$12,526,457, for a Total Combined Town and School Budget of \$22,950,504.00. Moderator Murphy asked if there a motion to approve Resolution Number 4 Setting the Tax Rate.

A motion was made by President Trocki with second by Vice President Meagher to set the tax rate at a sum not less than \$18,686,186.00, or not less than \$8.78 nor more than \$8.90 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. Moderator Murphy stated there is a range between \$8.78 and \$8.90. All those in favor say yes; "Yes". All those opposed say no; "No". Resolution 4 is approved by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Resolution Number 5 – Borrowing for Fire Department Purposes Through Issuance of Bonds

Moderator Murphy asked if anyone would like to make a motion to approve Resolution 5.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor White to approve Resolution Number 5.

Moderator Murphy asked if anyone would like to address Resolution Number 5.

Frank Dorsi of Grinnell Street stated all citizens want the best plan for Fire and EMS. The volunteers are an important and appreciated part of our community. With full support for an expanded station and updated equipment, many citizens voiced concerns for the plan – adding congestion, loss of parking, north end response service, restrictions on Narragansett Avenue and Grinnell Street, confinement, and yet to be vetted issues on zoning, parking, environmental safety and loss of an affordable housing residence. It is apparent these valid and sincere concerns, with very little dispute for the expenditure amount, signal the need for more time and a better plan. Fire, EMS and all citizens deserve your vote of conscience.

A motion was made by Frank D’Orsi with a second by a voter in attendance for a paper ballot on Resolution Number 5.

Moderator Murphy asks if anyone else would like to address this issue.

Timothy Yentsch of Gondola Avenue asked for clarification as to whether the Fire Department project if is completed as specified there will be significant loss of parking on Grinnell Street from the end of Grinnell Street to Narragansett Avenue.

Moderator Murphy asked if there are any other comments. There were none. Moderator Murphy asked Mr. D’Orsi if would be willing to vote on the Resolution without a paper ballot, and he responded no sir.

Moderator Murphy called for all those in favor of a paper ballot vote yes; “Yes”. All those opposed vote no; “No”. The no’s have it.

The Moderator’s decision was appealed (by numerous voters present). Moderator Murphy stated to have a paper ballot we need 103 voters in favor and asked all those in favor of a paper ballot to raise their hands for the Canvassers to perform a count. A count was taken. Moderator Murphy informed the voters to put their hands down.

Moderator Murphy obtains a count from the Canvassers of 249 in favor of a paper ballot and announced the motion for a paper ballot succeeds by a majority vote. (applause)

Moderator Murphy stated the procedure for the paper ballot will be explained. Board of Canvassers Clerk Karen Montoya explained the procedure to proceed by row, go around to the Canvassers table and have voter cards marked for voting, pick up your ballot, and proceed to mark ballots at the tables provided, bring to voting machine and place ballots in it, and then return to your seats. There are two voting machines, one for each side of the room. It will take a few minutes to open the machines for voting. Moderator Murphy stated if voters are in favor of Resolution Number 5 – Borrowing for Fire Department Purposes Through Issuance of Bonds vote yes, and if opposed vote no; a no vote is against the borrowing.

Arlene Petit of Bryer Avenue asked Moderator Murphy to state the amount of the bonding. Moderator Murphy stated it is \$2,500,000 - \$2,200,000 for the fire station renovation and expansion and \$300,000 for the new fire truck.

Moderator Murphy reminded the voters there is one more resolution, Resolution Number 6 – Borrowing for Slip Lining Purposes Through Issuance of Bonds. Only one motion can be addressed at a time.

Voting begins at 8:52 p.m. Voters are directed to tables to show white card, have it marked, and obtain ballot for voting. Moderator Murphy reminds voters yes to approve, and no to disapprove the \$2,500,000 for fire station renovations and the new truck. Voters proceed to vote at the voting machines and then return to seats. (some voters leave the FTM). Moderator Murphy calls for completion of voting and asked if anyone hasn’t voted to do so now. Voting was declared concluded at 9:20 p.m.

The tally of machines was completed by the Board of Canvassers, and the results are delivered to the Moderator.

Moderator Murphy stated the results of the vote are: Those in favor - 292. Those opposed – 209. The yes’s have it, and Resolution Number 5 passes by a majority vote in the affirmative. (applause)

Resolution Number 6 – Borrowing for Slip Lining Purposes Through Issuance of Bonds

Moderator Murphy calls for a motion on Resolution Number 6.


A motion was made by President Trocki with second by Vice President Meagher to approve Resolution Number 6. Moderator Murphy stated all those in favor say yes; “Yes”. All those opposed say no (no response). Resolution 6 passes by a unanimous vote.

Moderator Murphy calls for a vote to adjourn.

A motion was made by a voter in attendance with second by a voter in attendance to adjourn. Moderator Murphy asks all those in favor vote yes; “Yes”. Those opposed vote no (no response). Motion to adjourn passes by unanimous vote.

The Financial Town Meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Attest:


Cheryl A. Fernstrom, CMC. Town Clerk

Copies to: Town Council
 Town Administrator
 Finance Director
 Town Solicitors
 Town Moderator