**FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING**

**June 5, 2017**

**Call to Order**

Moderator John Murphy calls the Annual Financial Town Meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. in the Lawn Avenue School Gymnasium, 55 Lawn Avenue, Jamestown, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for Jamestown residents who passed away since our last Financial Town Meeting.

Town Council members present:

Kristine S. Trocki, President

Michael G. White, Vice President

Blake A. Dickinson

Mary E. Meagher

Eugene B. Mihaly

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

Michael C. Gray, Public Works Director

Edward A. Mello, Police Chief

Fred F. Pease, Town Sergeant

Steven J. Tiexiera, Deputy Fire Chief

Andrew J. Wade, Parks and Recreation Director

Peter D. Ruggiero, Town Solicitor

Cheryl A. Fernstrom, Town Clerk

School Committee members present:

Bruce J. Whitehouse, Chair

Sarah Baines, Vice Chair

Dorothy Strang

Sally Schott

Agnes Filkins

Also in attendance:

Kenneth Duva, Superintendent

Jane Littlefield, Director of Finance

Peter Anderson, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Carole Peterson, Melrose School Principal

Nate Edmunds, Lawn School Principal

Erika Dickson, Director of Student Services

**Budget Process, Meeting Procedures and Voting Overview**

Town Moderator Murphy thanked the staff of the Jamestown Lawn Avenue School and members of the Jamestown Fire Department for setting up a comfortable and safe place for tonight’s meeting. Moderator Murphy alerted those in attendance to the location of all the exits and which exit to use in case of an emergency. Moderator Murphy explained the procedures that will be followed this evening. Our objective tonight is to have a fair, open and efficient meeting. Remember the golden rule - treat others as you would like to be treated. Be polite and respectful.

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 general Town budget. School Committee Chair B. J. Whitehouse will speak on behalf of the School Department budget. All voters should have a green wristband. Those who cannot vote are sitting over there in purgatory (left side bleachers) and have purple wristbands.

**Speaking at the FTM**

Moderator Murphy stated discussion and voting is limited to registered voters (those who have green wristbands). However, a department spokesperson or the Town Administrator may answer a question directed to them by the Moderator. Voters wishing to speak must use the microphone provided in the center aisle, stating their name and address. Discussion is limited to three minutes per voter, and voters should not repeat 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 arm with the wristband to identify voters). The Board of Canvassers will assist with counting of these votes. Voters should not 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, which takes about an hour to complete. There will be a commentary by Council President Trocki, followed by a commentary by School Committee Chair Whitehouse, then a motion to adopt the budget. 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 no such filings, so there can be no vote to amend the budget by $10,000 or more. 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 Town Council. On behalf of the Town Council and the School Committee, I would like to thank you for joining us tonight.

I am proud to be a part of tonight’s Financial Town Meeting and I whole heartedly support both the Town and School budgets that are being presented. B. J. Whitehouse will speak on behalf of the School Department momentarily.

It is the objective of the Financial Town Meeting to present Budgets to the residents and taxpayers of Jamestown that outline what we believe are the community’s priorities in order to support and maintain quality services and infrastructure and will hopefully improve life for ALL residents.

Although the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget is a year-round process, the formal structure began back in November. Our Town Administrator, Andy Nota, lays out the process and timeline for individual Town Departments and staff to develop their recommendations for each of their respective Departments. These recommendations are then used in the development of the Administrator’s Proposed Budget. The Administrator’s Budget offers perspective and scale to local priorities, while balancing the Town’s most immediate needs and noting the financial impact to Town residents. The School Committee creates their proposed budget simultaneously.

In order to provide as much community input as possible, the Town Council held a total of Nine (9) public discussions to allow for plenty of time to discuss and review the Town Administrator’s and School Department’s budget recommendations.

As the weeks progressed, and more information was provided by the Town Departments and the Public, the Budgets were continuously updated and refined by the Town Council, School Committee and the Town Administrator.

Jamestown has continued to offer its residents one of the **lowest real property tax and motor vehicle rates in Rhode Island**, **while providing** **high quality municipal services and an amazing community-based quality of life**. *In FY 2017, Jamestown was able to again offer the third lowest residential tax rate, third lowest commercial rate and fourth lowest motor vehicle rate in Rhode Island.*

If you don’t already know or if you haven’t had the time to research the issues yourself, with respect to affordability and the cost of Town services, we as a community have realized a tax rate **reduction** totaling sixty-nine cents (**$ 0.69 cents**) since FY 2013. Thus, over the prior five-year period we went from nine dollars and thirty five cents ($**9.35**) in FY 2013 to the now proposed rate of eight dollars and sixty six cents (**$8.66)** for FY 2018. Jamestown is one of the best managed communities in the State thanks to everyone involved in this process.

As you may recall, there was a twenty cent (**$.20**) tax rate reduction last year and zero increase over the prior two years, following a sixty cent (**$.60**) rate reduction in FY 2014. This year’s proposed 2% increase in the net levy will maintain a stable financial landscape, allow important priorities to be addressed in the community, and while still allowing us to maintain one of the lowest overall tax rates in the State.

The Capital Program over the past four years has been targeted at improving the community’s infrastructure through one-time investments: in the Town’s Roads, Sidewalks, Drainage Systems, Buildings, Schools, Parks and Various Shoreline Improvements.

We are continuing to address a portion of this work through the efforts of in-house personnel, thus greatly reducing project cost and expanding the scope of work for many of our Town projects.

A few of these projects include the Mackerel Cove Restroom/Storage facility, improvements at Fort Getty, work on the newly expanded Fire Station and the North Road improvements. These are all important projects for our community and when combined with the quality and scope of municipal services that we also enjoy, these are all achievements that our community should be proud of. I know I am.

The Town’s recognized financial stability, leadership in the areas of Preservation and Environmental Stewardship, Historic Recognition, Agricultural Pursuits, the Arts, Marine Services, and preserving what is unique and beautiful about our community are all accomplishments that we have grown accustomed to as part of our local culture.

The Town’s **(DOUBLE A-1)** Aa1 Bond rating, remains a *significant* achievement, in that we continue to be one of only five communities in Rhode Island with a rating this high. By far we are the smallest community with a heavily seasonal commercial district to do so. No small fete. Because of the various infrastructure improvements and community needs that are currently under way or in the mix, this amazing **(DOUBLE A-1)** Aa1 rating will save the Town hundreds of thousands of dollars during the payback term of any long-term project debt that is incurred. One of the major reasons we have such a strong (**DOUBLE A-1**) Aa1 rating is because of our healthy Reserve Fund which saves us thousands of dollars in interest payments, as well as buffers the Town in any economic crisis. Our financial experts and our bond counsel all recommend maintaining our healthy Reserve Fund Balance and increasing it further, should the opportunity arise.

In addition, the Town and School Department successfully launched a joint initiative to enter into an Irrevocable Trust program, to manage the existing and future Other Post Employment Benefit Liability, better known as (OPEB).

The Town has already invested with earnings, a total of **one point one seven eight million** ($1.178) million dollars to address retiree benefit costs, a program managed by the Rhode Interlocal Risk Management Trust, the Town’s insurer.

Luckily, Jamestown is fortunate to be expecting a *slight increase* in both School and State revenues, while realizing a *slight reduction* in Town revenues due to the loss of a short-term revenue source. The Town’s Unassigned Reserve remains funded at a very favorable level as of June 30, 2016, with the Town and Schools combined Unassigned Fund Balance totaling four million six-hundred and eight thousand two hundred and one dollars **($4,608,201.00)** or 20.38% of the Total Town and School Budgets.

Priorities in the Operating Program for this year worthy of special comment include, overall service stability in recommending a 2.9% increase or two-hundred forty thousand eight hundred fifty nine dollars (**$240,859.00**) in municipal operations from FY 2017, with an increase in School operations of two hundred eighty thousand five hundred and thirty two dollars (**$280,532.00**) or 2.4% from FY 2017. In this proposal, you will see cost increases in Public Safety Services, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Public Health Services, Library Services, Debt Service, and the School Department, with a continuation of existing service levels.

We are very excited to have recently approved significant changes to our Veterans Exemptions that will provide for more deserving consideration to our eligible Veteran population. These changes will improve the Towns Exemption investment from approximately $17,000 to $62,000 annually.

Moving on to the Capital Program.

Although there has been much discussion in recent months regarding the Golf Course Clubhouse, Library, Senior Center and Town Parks, with much more to come over the next few years, these are NOT matters directly before us this evening as part of the General Fund Program in this year’s budget.

The Town and School combined Capital Program in FY 2018 recommends a decrease of one hundred one thousand and seventy dollars (**$101,070**) from last year. In spite of this reduction, this year's Capital program again targets numerous areas of need within the community. These include:

1. A continued commitment to the Pavement Management Program to improve our roads and sidewalks;
2. The third of four phases of North Road improvements, beginning with an improved and expanded drainage system and paving of a portion of the Phase I and Phase II drainage project;
3. A continuation of Fort Getty improvements that is self-funded by park operations, to complete much of the ongoing work at the Rembijas Pavilion; the replacement of the Gatehouse structure and the installation of a new restroom, office and material and equipment storage area at the entrance to the park;
4. A long awaited updating of the Town’s Zoning Ordinance;
5. Various mechanical, energy efficiency and interior improvements at the Library;
6. Investigation and formal research into the viability of renewable energy projects to stabilize the towns future electricity costs;
7. Equipment upgrades and replacement for Fire and EMS Services; and
8. Parks and Recreation projects including needed interior work at the Senior Center, enhancements to our public ROW’s and the replacement of the aging parks equipment.

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 that deserve your support.

*Thus, with these efforts, the recommended Annual Town* *budget for* ***Fiscal Year******2017-2018 totals is* ten million six hundred and fifty five thousand one hundred and fifty nine dollars (*$10,655,159).***

*The recommended Jamestown School Department budget is* **thirteen million sixty two thousand and ninety four dollars*****($13,062,094).***

*Thus, the total recommended Town and School Department Budget for the fiscal year* ***2017-2018*** *totals* **twenty three million seven hundred seventeen thousand two hundred fifty three dollars** *(****$23,717,253).***

On behalf of the Town Council, I respectfully request your support for the **Fiscal Year** **2017-2018 Budget** AS IT IS PRESENTED.

And I ask that you vote yes to the budgets; and yes to all of the Resolutions.

Thank you very much, we appreciate your coming out tonight, and again we appreciate your support. And thank you to all those who make this happen.(Applause)

Moderator Murphy thanked President Trocki for sharing that information.

**School Committee Chair Bruce J. Whitehouse**

Moderator Murphy introduced Chairman Whitehouse, who thanked Moderator Murphy and addressed the assembled voters:

Thank you, Mr. Moderator. Madame President, members of the Town Council, colleagues on the School Committee, Taxpayers of Jamestown.

 Thank you. Thank you for your support. Thank you for recognizing the intrinsic value of public education.

The past year has been a year of change for the Jamestown School Administration. First, Lew Kitts, the director of building and grounds announced his retirement after a quarter of a century of exemplary work and effort in maintaining the school property. My first inclination was to say NO … but Mr. Kitts put his time in and set a high bar for anyone who followed. Mr. Peter Anderson was that person and has hit the ground running, picking up where Lew left off. In fact, Lew has pitched in to help and advise which has made the transition almost seamless. Thanks to Lew and welcome to Peter. You only need to look around the schools to see the great job the maintenance crew has done. Check out the air handlers – they are now computer controlled to monitor air quality and energy usage and Mr. Anderson can adjust them remotely using his smart phone!

Then,

Superintendent Carol Blanchette announced that she was leaving to take the position of the Director of Teaching and Learning at the RI Department of Education. We hired Mike Convery, a retired superintendent, as an interim and conducted an exhaustive search … right across the hall to find that our Director of Student Services, Ken Duva, had just earned his superintendent’s certificate. The only problem with the appointment for me was … it seemed too easy. But we have been very pleased with Mr. Duva’s performance. And, by the way, Mr. Duva is now Dr. Duva, having earned his doctorate since his appointment.

THEN, we hired Erika Dickson away from Providence Schools to take Ken Duva’s place as Director of Student Services.

Oh, yeah, then there was the November election. We lost Cathy Kaiser, Julia Held and Melissa Mastrostefano and with them - 27 years of institutional wisdom. I was elected Chair, Sarah Baines was elected Vice-Chair and newly-elected Dorothy Strang is Clerk. We are joined by Sally Schott and Agnes Filkins. Filkins should sound familiar as Agnes’ late husband Jim also served on the school committee. (It should be noted that school committee members are the only elected officials that must take professional development, the only ones who have to take classes on how to be elected officials, and all members have accomplished their six hours of professional development as mandated by state law. In fact, Agnes and Dorothy have already reached the level of Leadership Academy which means they have taken 15 or more hours of Professional Development in their first six months! I have achieved the Masters Level with well over 50 hours of Professional Development.)

Now to business…

This evening we come before you to ask for your support of a 2.01% increase in the school budget which amounts to $220,716. A great deal of the monetary increase is due to a net increase of high school tuitions - 23 students are graduating from high school this year and we budgeted for 44 students entering as freshmen in the fall. This accounts for 75% or $165,000 of the overall budget increase mentioned.

We utilize zero-based budgeting which infers that we zero out every amount in the previous year’s budget and start from scratch. It is tedious and time-consuming and we have done it every year I have been on the school committee. It forces us to look very closely at how much of YOUR money and my money we need to operate the schools at a high level. Speaking of high-levels – there are four school departments out of the 36 in RI with two commended schools - and you are in one of them. Lawn and Melrose both have the highest RI Department of Education designation as ‘commended.’ Test scores are part of that ranking and Lawn ranked #1 in the 2016 NECAP science test.

Also, according to the RI Department of Education District Level 2016 PARCC scores Jamestown School Department is the 2nd Public School District in the state for having the highest percentage of students earning Proficient or higher on both English Language Arts and Math state assessments.

But educational excellence is much more than test scores.

It should be noted that parents from neighboring districts have inquired about sending their children to our schools - they, of course, would be responsible for the cost of tuition.

Educators from RI and surrounding states are visiting our schools to see the Maker spaces and other innovative programs. If you have not seen a basketball game in this gym, attended a musical concert, stopped by during Island Treasures, volunteered with our nationally-ranked robotics teams or been to a unified basketball game in this gym, you are missing out on the exciting learning that takes place here every day. For example, 24 hours from now, you could be listening to the 6th grade music program. In 48 hours you could be listening to the 7th and 8th music concert. Right here.

And it’s because of your support. And the professionalism and passion of our teachers, staff and of Carrie Petersen and Nate Edmunds, our two school principals. It is because of the parental support.

None of this would be possible without the support of Jamestown taxpayers. The School Committee takes a HARD look at the budget and would not ask YOU to increase the amount if it was not essential.

Essential for the education of our youth. Our future.

Essential for the preservation of the republic.

On behalf of the School Committee and the Children, thank you. (Applause)

**Voting on the Budget**

Moderator Murphy stated we will proceed with the business of the motion and he will entertain a motion to approve the general budget.

**A motion was made by Town Council President Trocki with second by Town Council Member Meagher to approve the general Town Budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018 in the amount of $10,655,159.**

Moderator Murphy asked for any discussion.

Town Council Member Dickinson stated I want to be honest, and I voted against this year’s town and school budget, and I will take a minute to explain my rationale for doing so. Tonight we present for voters’ approval the 2017-18 proposed budget an increase of $547,827 over last year’s budget. When adding the additional increases in revenues highlighted earlier, we are talking about over $647,000 from last year. It’s been explained in government-speak it is only a net levied increase of 2% or whatever and in short the tax rate won’t increase as much as the town was able to realize money from home revaluations. To me I find it not very transparent and it doesn’t really reflect what the true tax rate is in Jamestown. And we do get recognized for a low tax rate, and I concur. I have been doing this for a long time standing in front of this meeting and trying to persuade people to do a particular motion. I will repeat what I said in 2012, as outlined in Article 11 of the Town Charter that describes the budget process. We are at the point in this process where the Town Council is seeking voter adoption of this budget. Should the voters reject this budget, last year’s town and school budget will prevail until a proposed budget is adopted. In short, the Town will continue to function as normal, Armageddon will not arrive, and the sun will rise again in Jamestown. I ask voters to reject the current town and school budget, and upon conclusion of the discussion of the town and school budget, I move for a paper ballot; and yes that is a motion.

Moderator Murphy asked if that comment was directed for the school budget. Councilor Dickinson stated for the town and school budget.

**Councilor Dickinson stated upon completion of the discussion of the school and town budget, I move for a paper ballot. A second is made from a voter in attendance.**

Moderator Murphy asked if there is further discussion.

A voter in attendance asks a paper ballot for what proposal?

Councilor Dickinson stated for the town and school budget. The budget will be decided if this motion passes through a paper ballot.

Moderator Murphy stated the motion currently before the body for consideration relates to the general town budget. Councilor Dickinson is calling for a paper ballot on the general budget.

Councilor Dickinson answered yes.

Moderator Murphy asks if there are any further questions or discussion or comments.

A voter in attendance asked, what would the ballot say?

Moderator Murphy stated it would be a form of voting. If 20% of the voters present vote for a paper ballot, there would be a paper ballot. A Councilor asked for a paper ballot and that is what the vote will be, for a paper ballot. The ballot will say do you approve the budget.

Canvasser Karen Montoya explained the ballot will say yes or no. “Yes” you want the budget; “No” you do not want the budget.

Moderator Murphy thanked her for the clarification.

**Canvassers Count of Voters Present**

Moderator Murphy announced the Board of Canvassers report there are 162 registered voters present tonight. 20% of 162 voters is 33 voters.

Moderator Murphy calls for a standing vote of all those in favor of a paper ballot.

The Board of Canvassers counts the voters standing in favor of a paper ballot.

Moderator Murphy announced there are 34 voters in favor, and there will be a paper ballot.

Dennis Webster of Mount Hope Avenue stated there are three parts of the budget for adoption as outlined on the agenda for tonight’s meeting – General Government, School Department Budget, and Combined Town and School Budget. Will we be voting separately on each of those?

Moderator Murphy stated no, we are voting on the general town budget. As soon as the Canvassers are ready we will begin the paper ballot process.

Melody Drnach of Union Street asked for clarification of Councilor Dickinson’s outline should we vote no on the general budget. What is the process then going forward should we vote no to come up with a new budget?

Councilor Dickinson stated if the voters reject the budget proposed today, the budget that was enacted last year still stands. Until the Council produces another proposed budget to present to the voters, last year’s budget is still active, that is what I am implying and what the process outlines. My motion was upon completion of the discussion of the town and school budget, and since we were only talking about the town general budget, I applied my motion to that.

Ray Ianetta of Maple Avenue asked if this creates a conflict because the prior year’s budget is a difference of more than $10,000 from this year’s budget, and should this have been addressed earlier.

Moderator Murphy stated the motion for a paper ballot is a request for a particular mechanism in counting the votes, yes or no, on the town’s portion of the budget. It is to reject this year’s budget, yes or no. “Yes” it is approved, “No” it is rejected. It is not a modification that is dealt with in the $10,000 limitation you are referring to.

Mr. Ianetta stated how is that different, as the reason for doing this is to reduce the budget by more than $10,000.

Moderator Murphy stated it is to reject the budget. I agree with your logic, but it is not dealt with in the Town Charter the way you describe it. We are not voting on the total budget but on the town general budget.

Councilor Dickinson called a point or order, I wanted to do the whole budget, and leave the mechanism up to the Moderator.

Moderator Murphy stated the motion on the floor is for the general town budget as motioned by the Town Council President and does not include the school budget. Are we ready for the vote? Discussion and clarification ensued.

Moderator Murphy stated the process for the paper ballot is for the vote on the town budget portion, not the school budget or the entire budget. Voters will come forward, show your wristband, and you will be given a paper ballot. There are two questions on the ballot. To approve the budget vote yes, to reject the budget vote no. There is a circle next to each word, and you have to fill it in with a pen or pencil.

Voting begins at 7:50 p.m. Voting is directed by the Moderator beginning with the west side of the room; the east side of the room was directed to begin the process of voting by going to the Canvassers tables, show wristbands, and receive the paper ballot.
Moderator Murphy announced that at the conclusion of voting results will be tallied by the Canvassers for the general town budget.

Voting is concluded at 8:11 p.m. Canvassers Carol Nelson-Lee and Ken Newman deliver the results to the Moderator. Moderator Murphy announced I have received the tallies from the two machines.

**Total votes in favor, approving the general budget as developed by the Town Council: 113 voters in favor; 48 rejected the town budget. The people in favor prevailed; the town budget is adopted.**  (Applause)

Moderator Murphy entertains a motion to approve the school department budget.

**A motion was made by Council President Trocki with second by Council Member Mihaly to approve the school department budget. There was no discussion.**

Moderator Murphy calls for a vote on the motion.

**All those in favor please signify by saying yes. “Yes.”All those opposed signify by saying no. “No.” The motion passes by a majority vote in the affirmative.** (Applause)

Moderator Murphy announced we will now vote on the Combined Budget, that is, the Town and School Department Budget, and entertains a motion to approve the combined budget.

**A motion was made by Council Member Mihaly with second by Council President Trocki to adopt the combined recommended Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget.**

Moderator Murphy calls for a vote on the motion.

**All those in favor signify by saying yes. “Yes.” All those opposed signify by saying no. “No.” Motion passes by a majority vote in the affirmative.**

**A motion was made by Town Council Member Mihaly with second by Town Council Vice President White to waive the reading of the five Resolutions.**

Moderator Murphy called for a vote on the motion.

**All those in favor signify by saying yes. “Yes.” All those opposed signify by saying no. (no response) Motion passes unanimously.**

Moderator Murphy stated the first three Resolutions are housekeeping Resolutions and we will take them together. He entertains a motion to approve them as written.

**Resolution Number 1 – Sewer Line Frontage Tax Rate**

**Resolution Number 2 – Borrowing in Anticipation of Taxes**

**Resolution Number 3 – Disposition of Collected Back Taxes**

**A motion was made by Council President Trocki with second by Council Member Meagher to approve Resolutions 1, 2, and 3. There was no discussion. Moderator Murphy called all those in favor of approving the Resolutions set out in Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 signify by saying yes. “Yes.” All those opposed signify by saying no. (no response). The motion passes unanimously.**

**Resolution Number 4 – Setting the Tax Rate**

Moderator Murphy reads the critically important information for Resolution Number 4: “. . . the assessment and collection of a tax on the ratable real estate and tangible personal property in the sum not less than $19,250,211.00, or not less than $8.66, nor more than $8.75, per thousand dollars of assessed valuation” and entertains a motion to adopt Resolution Number 4 - Setting the Tax Rate with that information inserted.

**A motion was made by Council President Trocki with second by Council Member Meagher to order the assessment and collection of a tax on the ratable real estate and tangible personal property in the sum not less than $19,250,211 or not less than $8.66 nor more than $8.75 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. Moderator Murphy asked all those in favor to signify by saying yes; “Yes”. All those opposed signify by saying no; “No”. Resolution 4 is approved by a majority vote in the affirmative.**

**Resolution Number 5 – Borrowing for South Pond Dam Repairs Through Issuance of Bonds**

Moderator Murphy stated reading of the Resolution was waived and he entertained a motion to approve Resolution 5 – Borrowing for South Pond Dam Repairs Through Issuance of Bonds.

**A motion was made by Council President Trocki with second by Council Member Meagher to approve Resolution Number 5.**

Moderator Murphy asks if there is any discussion.

Katherine Maxwell of Narragansett Avenue stated I want to discuss the South Pond Number 5 Resolution. The Resolution calls for borrowing of funds in the name of the entire Town of Jamestown for liability purposes. However, the Town Administrator is on the record twice, and given the opportunity, the Town Council has also indirectly affirmed, that user fees for the Town water and sewer system are to be used to repay the entire $550,000. I maintain that the South Pond is a town-wide resource that is the responsibility of all town residents and taxpayers to take care of. If it needs to be repaired, so be it; but, if the Town Administrator is on record that only the 1,500 or so users of the Town water and sewer system will pay for the entire $550,000, then I urge others in the audience tonight, the registered voters, to think about this, think about whether the South Pond is a Town reservoir or whether the tab will be paid by the hard-pressed water and sewer customers, who continue to bear more and more and higher and higher increases every single year to the point of a burden and unaffordability inevitably going into the future. I urge you to reject this Bond and to ask the Town Council to reconsider ways to pay for any necessary repairs to South Pond. It is managed for wildlife, for emergency management, for wetlands, for scenic beauty – it goes much beyond drinking water.

No further discussion.

**Moderator Murphy calls for all those in favor of adopting Resolution Number 5 to signify by saying yes. “Yes”. All those opposed signify by saying no. “No.” The motion passes by a majority vote in the affirmative.**

**Adjournment**

Moderator Murphy entertains a motion to adjourn.

**A motion was made by Council President Trocki with a second by a voter in attendance to adjourn. Moderator Murphy asks all those in favor to signify by saying yes. “Yes”. All those opposed signify by saying no (no response). Motion passes unanimously.**

Moderator Murphy thanks all those in attendance.

The Financial Town Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Attest:

Cheryl A. Fernstrom, CMC, Town Clerk

Copies to: Town Council

 Town Administrator

 Finance Director

 Town Solicitors

 Town Moderator