

FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING

June 2, 2008

The annual Financial Town Meeting was opened by Town Council President Julio J. DiGiando at 7:11 p.m. The following members were present:

Michael G. White, Vice President  
William A. Kelly  
Barbara A. Szepatowski  
Robert W. Sutton, Jr.

also present:

Bruce R. Keiser, Town Administrator  
Peter D. Ruggiero Town Solicitor  
Arlene D. Petit, Town Clerk  
James Donnelly, Town Moderator  
Christina D. Collins, Finance Director  
Fred Pease, Town Sergeant  
Dr. Marcia Lukon, Superintendent  
Dr. Robert Fricklas, Director of Special Education  
Carole Melucci, Co-Principal  
Jane Littlefield, Interim Business Manager

as well as School Committee members:

Catherine L. Kaiser, Chair  
William (Bucky) Brennan  
Julia Held  
B. J. Whitehouse  
Julie Kallfelz

**JAMES A. DONNELLY, TOWN MODERATOR**

The Town Moderator addressed the 115 registered voters (eventual number) in attendance and reviewed the general rules for the Town Meeting. In addition, Mr. Donnelly reminded the assembly that no motion which increases or reduces an appropriation recommended by the Town Council by \$10,000 or more shall be in order unless notice of intention has been presented to the Town Clerk at least twenty (20) days prior to this meeting.

**JULIO DIGIANDO, TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Town Council President DiGiando reviewed the overall budget for the fiscal year 2008-2009. The following budget figures were presented by Council President DiGiando:

Total General Government budget \$8,466,312.00, which represents an increase of 3.91%. The School budget is \$12,264,907.00, an increase of 4.84%. The General Government is offset by department revenues of \$2,006,895.00 leaving a balance of \$6,459,417.00. The School budget is offset by revenues of \$801,029.00 leaving a balance of \$11,463,878.00. The total Town and School budget is \$17,923,295.00, which is further offset by general revenues of \$1,080,000.00. The remaining amount due from taxes is \$16,843,295.00.

Council President DiGiando stated that the current Jamestown tax base is \$2,075,712.00, which will require a tax rate of between \$8.11 and \$8.12 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value. The overall increase is 4.46%, which is equal to \$.30 on the dollar (\$.21 School, \$.09 Town.)

Council President DiGiando noted the increased debt service for the Town due to current and planned projects.

**CATHERINE KAISER, SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIR**

School Committee Chair Kaiser read a prepared statement in review of steps taken to control budget spending as well as reinforcing the class structure at the Lawn School and the Melrose School. Comparisons between other South County school systems were made, indicating that Jamestown is below state figures for special education costs. Ms. Kaiser noted the cost-savings measures taken in Jamestown by enabling special education students to remain in the community rather than being sent to costly outside programs. Ms. Kaiser also addressed the financial impact to the community for the many unfunded state-mandated programs.

Ms. Kaiser noted that in an attempt to increase revenues, they rented out a classroom at the Lawn School to the Pathways program. Ms. Kaiser stated that the School Committee will continue to look for ways to increase school revenues.

Ms. Kaiser informed the audience that the school budget was passed by a unanimous vote of the School Committee.

**PRESENTATION OF BUDGET FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ELECTORS OF THE TOWN OF JAMESTOWN**

The Town Moderator called for the voting on the 2008/2009 budget.

**Motion to approve the 2008/2009 Total Town Budget:**

It was moved by Councilor Szepatowski, seconded by Councilor Kelly to approve the 2008/2009 total Town budget in the amount of \$8,466,312.00. There being no discussion, the voice vote was taken and the motion clearly carried.

**Motion to approve the total School budget:**

It was moved by School Committee Chair Catherine Kaiser, seconded by School Committee member Kallfelz to approve the School budget in the amount of \$12,264,907.00. There being no discussion, the voice vote was taken and the motion clearly carried.

**Motion to approve the total Town and School budgets:**

It was moved by Councilor White, seconded by Councilor Szepatowski to approve the total Town and School 2008/2009 budget in the amount of \$20,731,219.00. There being no discussion, the voice vote was taken and the motion clearly carried.

## **READING OF THE WARRANT**

The Town Moderator called for the reading of the warrant.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **Resolution No. 1, Sewer Line Frontage Tax Rate:**

### **Resolution No. 2, Borrowing in Anticipation of Taxes:**

### **Resolution No. 3, Disposition of Collected Back Taxes:**

It was moved by Councilor White, seconded by Councilor Szepatowski to combine Resolutions No.1, No. 2 and No. 3 for approval and to waive the reading of those warrants. There being no discussion, the motion was put to a voice vote, which unanimously carried.

### **Resolution No. 4, Appropriation for Improvements and Expansion of the Police Station and Borrowing therefor through Issuance of Bonds:**

Resolution No. 4 was read by the Town Clerk, followed by the Town Moderator's call for a motion.

It was moved by Councilor White seconded by Councilor Szepatowski to approve Resolution No. 4. There being no discussion, the voice vote was taken and the motion clearly carried.

### **Resolution No. 5, Expenditures from Undesignated Fund Balance:**

Resolution No. 5 was read by the Town Clerk, followed by the Town Moderator's call for a motion.

It was moved by Councilor Kelly seconded by Councilor Szepatowski to approve Resolution No. 5. There being no discussion, the voice vote was taken and the motion clearly carried.

### **Resolution No. 6, Setting the Tax Rate:**

It was moved by Council President DiGiando, seconded by Councilor Kelly to approve the assessment and collection of a tax on the ratable real estate and tangible personal property in the sum not less than \$16,843,295.00, or not less than \$8.11, nor more than \$8.12 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. There being no discussion, the motion was put to a voice vote, which unanimously carried.

There being no further business before the Council, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 PM. The voice vote clearly carried.

Attest:

Arlene D. Petit  
Town Clerk

C: Town Council Members (5)  
Town Administrator  
Town Solicitor  
Finance Director  
Board of Canvassers  
School Committee  
Tax Assessor  
Administrative Circulation