

Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2021, 3:00pm

Present: Chair Keyes, Selectman Arcudi, Selectman Hazard, Town Administrator Schindler\

Chair Keyes called the meeting to order at 3:02PM. Chair Keyes began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review Annual Town Meeting Warrant (Vote)

Town Administrator Schindler started with reviewing the Town Meeting Warrant for the Board. Schindler presented the Warrant draft on her screen. Schindler mentioned that Selectman Arcudi requested to change the order of warrant article 1 and 2. Arcudi stated that he feels the warrant article changing the name from "Board of Selectmen" to "Select Board" is very important and wanted it to be at the beginning. He asked for the Zoning Warrant article regarding cannabis retail, cultivation and testing to be moved up because if this item does not pass it will change future financing and funding going forward. This warrant is also a good segue to the budget warrant items. Town Administrator Schindler stated that the only other change was to Article 12 regarding the Senior Van Program revolving fund needed to be corrected to \$10,000 spending limit and not \$1,000. Selectman Arcudi stated that his main concern is Article 9 and how it will affect employees that do not have contracts going into next year. Chair Keyes and Selectman Hazard stated that they agree with the change of order. Chair Keyes and Selectmen Hazard stated that they have read through the warrant and their main focus is the discussion of Article 9.

Selectman Arcudi stated that his main concern with Article 9 is that he has just been informed of this article this morning. Arcudi stated that the Town has not done an article like this. Arcudi stated that he believes in MGL 50E subsection 7B, the Town fulfills the obligation every time the Town goes through the budget line by line. Arcudi stated that by starting this article/precedent now, the Town will not be able to give any other raises that are in Fire, Highway, Dispatch or Clerical until the contracts are settled. He feels that this will not be possible to get done before July 1, 2021 and have another special town meeting to get them approved. Selectman Arcudi stated that he does not disagree with the spirit of article 9, however, he feels that the Town has now put the raises of dispatch, highway & clerical employees in jeopardy for FY22. These departments have not received raises for 2 years.

Town Administrator Schindler stated that she was not aware that it was an option. In her experience, article 9 was the way the Town has to fund the units. Schindler asked the Board if they wish to remove article 9 and continue to do the agreements the way the Town has in the past. Chair Keyes stated that it appears that the Town has been approving the contracts correctly through the warrants, it is different than Town Administrator Schindler's experience, however. Chair Keyes stated that he agrees with Selectman Arcudi's sentiments and wishes the Board were made aware of this article sooner. Chair Keyes stated that if the Board revokes article 9 and continues with how the Town historically has approved this item then it would alleviate any issues. However, he asked that Town Administrator confirm that Town Counsel that how the Town has been addressing this historically is correct.

Chair Keyes and Selectman Arcudi stated that they are comfortable with removing article 9 from the warrant and continue with the allocated monies that is in the budget for the discussed departments for collective bargaining. Selectman Hazard stated that she agrees with removing article 9 as long as there are no liability issues from Town Counsel.

Selectman Hazard made a motion to approve the warrant as is, pending Town Counsel's guidance pertaining to article 9. Selectman Arcudi seconded the motion.

Hazard – Aye, Arcudi – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Selectman Arcudi made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Hazard seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Chair Keyes dissolved the meeting at 3:40PM

Submitted by:

Lindsay Mercier

Lindsay Mercier, Executive Assistant

Adopted: _____