

SPECIAL OPEN TOWN MEETING
June 25, 2016

Rad 1
RKA
CMT

Selectmen in attendance: Christine Torno, Paul Nadeau and Royce Heath

10:28 pm – Open Meeting

ARTICLE 1: Elect a Moderator

Laura Bragg nominated Richard Nass as moderator; seconded by Judy Churchard, all in favor.

Deputy Clerk, Dale Fisk, swore Richard Nass in as moderator.

ARTICLE 2: Emergency Services Department Budget

Kevin Hartford made a motion to accept the article as written; seconded by Selectman Royce Heath.

Discussion – Harrison Thorp proposed an amendment to reduce the Chief's salary to \$28,800 and that the money saved would be apportioned equally between per diem, night shift, training and maintenance of equipment. Moderator Richard Nass said there can only be an overall less dollar amount, not for a specific purpose.

Nancy Neubert made a motion to vote by written ballot for this article; the motion was seconded. 78 votes for written; 58 opposed

Corinna Cole said as a Budget Committee member she voted to support this article and asked the Chief to explain what will happen if it doesn't pass. There was a vote to allow a non resident to speak (the Chief is not a resident of Lebanon). He explained that if this article doesn't pass, the EMS Department will be forced to close its doors on July 1st. If the budget is reduced, the department may be forced to get rid of per diem and we could lose ambulance service.

Jeri Basko, a Budget Committee member, said she is in favor of the Fire/EMS article as written because she sees the activity at the station and sees the increased response from the station. She passionately expressed her support and the need for the town to put money into the Fire/EMS Department.

Nancy Neubert made a motion to amend the article by reducing the amount to \$390,000.00; this was seconded. There was much debate on the amendment and Nancy explained her reasons for reducing the budget. A motion to move on the amendment was made by Brent LaViolette; it was seconded. The amendment was voted and failed to pass.

Moderator Nass explained that we were back to the original motion on Article 2 which was to vote by written ballot. Further debate began some for and some against the article amount. Chris Gilpatrick, Tim Wagner, Rosemary Cheever, Tom Clements, Bettie Harris-Howard and Patricia Neal all expressed their opinions. It was moved to end the debate and vote on the article; this was seconded.

After counting the written votes by hand, Deputy Clerk Dale Fisk announced there were 102 Yes votes and 42 No votes so Article 2 passed as written.

ARTICLE 3: Transfer Station Budget

Kevin Hartford made a motion to vote by secret ballot; it was seconded.

This motion was voted on and it failed.

A motion was made to vote on Article 3 as written.

Article 3 was voted on and passed as written.

ARTICLE 4: Code Enforcement Officer/Health Officer/E-911 Addressing Coordinator Budget

There was much discussion about this article.

Harrison Thorp proposed an amendment to reduce the budget for CEO to \$36,608; amendment was seconded.

Moderator Nass called for debate of the amendment which resulted in much discussion.

Tim Bragdon spoke in favor of the CEO budget citing the amount of money the position has brought into the town in revenues - \$60,000.

A motion was made to vote on the amendment for \$36,608 and seconded. The amendment failed.

Kevin Hartford made a motion to vote on the original Article 4; this was seconded.

Article 4 passed as written.

Moderator Nass made an announcement that the Town Office will be closing at 1:00 pm on Thursday, June 30 for Fiscal Year End.

A motion to adjourn was made at 11:27 am; seconded and all in favor.