

Town of Newfields
First Session of the 2008 Annual Meeting
Deliberative Session February 6, 2008

Selectmen

James M. McIlroy, Chairman
Wesley T. Moore
Michael Woodworth

William Davis, Moderator
Sue McKinnon, Town Clerk

Moderator Bill Davis called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He called for a pledge of allegiance and then reviewed the rules and procedures of the meeting. The head table was introduced. Bill explained that this session is for the explanation, discussion, debate and if necessary, amendment of the warrant articles.

Article 1. Shall the Town of Newfields vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the Warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling One Million, Four Hundred, Eighty-three Thousand, Five Hundred, Ninety-six Dollars (\$1,483,596.)? Should this be defeated, the default operating budget shall be One Million, Four Hundred, Thirty-nine Thousand, Seven Hundred, Eight-five Dollars (\$1,439,785.) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Newfields or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only? (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

A motion was made by Paul Watson and seconded by Martin Poulin to accept Article 1. Selectman James McIlroy stated that the budget was reviewed line by line at the budget hearing held in January. His plan this evening is to talk about the budget article on an exception basis. The overall budget has increased 2.8%. James highlighted the largest increases.

Highways and Streets line has been increased because we no longer have funds set aside for paving. The Town wishes to continue with their paving schedule.

Robert Conner asked which roads would be paved this year. That information was not readily available. The paving schedule was formulated by the Road Agent and Budget Committee not the Selectmen. The plan is to pave one mile of roadway per year. Last year funds from the Route 85 bridge project required us to pave Railroad Ave. and Pleasant Street rather than the scheduled streets.

James explained that the default budget is used if the Town votes down the proposed budget. The difference between the proposed budget and default is \$44,000. The default budget includes increases due to contracts and bond payments and decreases by any one-time payments.

Some line items show actual expenditures much larger than what is being proposed for the ensuing year. The reasoning for this is that a portion of the actual money spent is reimbursed. Last year we spent 92% of the budget.

While townspeople were reviewing the budget Bill Davis commented that any of the line items may be increased or decreased by an amendment.

James thanked the Budget Committee and Department Heads for all their hard work keeping increases down to a minimum this year.

Christine Golden asked if the insurance line item covered health insurance only. James informed her that property and liability insurance are also included with the health.

Robin Conner asked for an explanation of pest control and health agencies.

Health agencies are a number of non-profit organizations that service Newfields residents. The town donates money to them based on the number of residents they serve. Each year the agencies are required to submit a request for funds.

The actual expenditures under pest control include money spent on emergency spraying (adulticiding) and trapping done in 2007. The appropriation for the ensuing year is zero because all permit fees are included in the mosquito warrant article. In the past, the timing of applying for the permit for mosquito control had to occur prior to voting. There was no further discussion. Article 1 will be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 2. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.) to be placed in the previously established Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of a new fire truck? (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

A motion was made by Paul Watson and seconded by Bob Conner to accept Article 2. Fire Chief Jeff Buxton explained that putting money aside each year for a replacement fire truck has been done since 1982. The amount this year is an increase over last year. The plan is to purchase apparatus every 5-6 years, but if the fire department feels they can go 7-8 years they do. The cost of the next truck will cost about \$300,000. Jeff asked for everyone's support. There was no discussion and Article 2 will be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 3. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand, Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,400.) for the purchase of bullet proof vests for the Police Department and to authorize the Selectmen to accept a grant in the amount of Twelve Hundred Dollars (\$1,200.) from the US Department of Justice. The remaining Twelve Hundred Dollars (\$1,200.) shall be raised by taxation. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

A motion was made by Paul Watson and seconded by Ralph Gray to accept Article 3. Police Chief Art Reed explained that this purchase would be to replace the vests the officers wear now. They purchase vests every other year. This is the 3rd year it has been done. The Department of Justice will reimburse us 50%. We will get back \$1200.00. There was no discussion and Article 3 will be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 4. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand, Five Hundred dollars (\$1,500.) for the purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for the police department? (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

A motion was made by Paul Watson and seconded by Mike Price to accept Article 4. Art explained that the defibrillator that the police use was given to them by the fire department and it needs to be replaced. Sometimes they are first on the scene and it is beneficial to have a defibrillator in the cruiser. There was no discussion and Article 4 will be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 5. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.) for the purpose of re-roofing the front section of the Town Hall by replacing the existing worn slate with IKO 50 Year Slate-like asphalt shingles? (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

A motion was made by Paul Watson and seconded by Peggy Arend to accept Article 5. James mentioned that the roof needs to be taken care of. Last year a branch fell off of a tree and went through the roof on the back side of the town hall. We received \$16,000 from our insurance company for repairs. The Selectmen had the choice of repairing or replacing the entire roof. They opted to replace the roof with 50-year shingles. It would be very expensive to replace the existing slate roof on the front of the building. There have been random leaks throughout the year and it needs to be replaced.

Peggy Arend asked several questions. She wanted to know if the quotes included a fee for the disposal of the slate. She also asked what happened to the slate that was removed from the back of the roof when it was redone.

Wes Moore informed us that the slate removal was included in the cost of replacing the back roof. The slate was stockpiled and is being stored at the Water and Sewer Department. We intend on doing the same with the slate that

will be removed from the front of the building. The Selectmen realize that it does have value and they would not just let it go.

Peggy said that her company looked at the roof and was going to give a quote but didn't because she was concerned with the fact that the roof was not vented. She also stated that she did not quote it because Larry Shaw did not return her phone calls. The existing roof deck is not vented and in order for a warranty to apply for 50 years, it must be vented. There is only one company out there that will warranty an un-vented roof. She was curious to know if the Selectmen took that into consideration.

Wes explained that it was an oversight on his part and he thanked Peggy for bringing it to his attention. The Selectmen wish to do the job properly and will make sure the roof gets vented.

Others in the audience agreed that venting was essential and that \$5,000 would be an adequate amount of money to get it done.

A motion was made by Paul Watson and seconded by Mike Todd to amend Article 5 to read, 'Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.) for the purpose of re-roofing and venting the front section of the Town Hall by replacing the existing worn slate with IKO 50 Year slate-like asphalt shingles?' The amendment was voted on and passed. Article 5 will be placed on the ballot as amended.

Wes Moore commented on the new stage curtain in the town hall. It was purchased with generous donations from town residents and it looks great.

Article 6. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand, One Hundred Dollars (\$6,100.) for the purpose of refinishing the floors in the Town Hall? (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

A motion was made by Jed Rumford and seconded by Ralph Gray to accept Article 6. James explained that this is another item that needs to be taken care of in the building. The floors can be refinished one more time before they need to be replaced. The quote includes the stage, hallway, back room and main hall floors.

Natalie Fream asked if the Selectmen got a quote to have the floors replaced. Wes said that they did not look into replacing the floors. The replacement cost would be very expensive.

Ralph Gray asked how long the floor would last. Jed Rumford informed us that the last time they were done was 45-50 years ago. There was no further discussion. Article 6 will be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 7. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.) for the purpose of making necessary repairs or replacing the retaining wall located at Badger Park? (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

A motion was made by Paul Watson and seconded by Ralph Gray to accept Article 7. James explained that there is a wall along the back side of Badger Park that is falling down. The park is slowly pushing through the wall and the monuments on the park may be disturbed someday if it is not repaired or replaced. It was repaired 10 years ago by rebuilding the wall using the existing granite stones. This time the Selectmen are considering removing the entire granite wall and rebuilding it using concrete pre-formed blocks. James noted that they do not intend on selling the granite.

Jen MacPherson asked if the property had been surveyed and if this will be a permanent solution to the problem. James replied that the property has not been surveyed. It is the opinion of the Town Planner (both past and present Town Planners) that the wall is owned by the Town. This will be a permanent solution.

Jeff Buxton is concerned that there may be complaints about the way the wall will look with the concrete blocks. Wes responded that this is an economical solution that will work and it will look good. The concrete blocks look like granite from about 20 feet away.

James added that this will stop erosion and make the wall safe. It is a town liability the way it is now.

Jen MacPherson commented that many people do not know where Badger Park is located. A motion was made by Paul Watson and seconded by Robert Conner to add a parenthetical at the end of the article to read, 'where the town monuments are located on Main Street.' The amendment was voted on and passed. Article 7 will be placed on the ballot as amended.

Peter Allen asked if the Selectmen were sure that the wall will not shift after it is rebuilt. Wes said that they did consult the town planner and road agent regarding the proper way to build the wall. The wall will be built below grade so that when heaving occurs it will go right back into place.

Article 8. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.) to be placed in the Town Hall Expendable Trust Fund? (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

A motion was made by Ralph Gray and seconded by Paul Watson to approve Article 8. James explained that this warrant article has been in place since he has been on the Board. The money covers items that are not planned for such as having the furnace repaired and changes for ADA compliance. If the money is

not used it is carried over to the next year. The reasons the roof and floors are separate warrant articles is because there is never enough money in this fund to do those types of repairs.

According to Jared Rumford there are several things that need to be done around the town hall. For example, an awning needs to be installed over the police department door to prevent water from running in under the door. He suggests increasing the warrant article amount. A motion was made by Jared Rumford and seconded by Paul Watson to amend the warrant article to \$10,000.

Mike Todd commented that he is not opposed to increasing the article to \$10,000 but he is concerned that it may put it over the threshold for voters. We may run the risk of having it voted down if it is increased. A motion was made and seconded to move the amendment. The amendment was voted on by a show of voting cards and passed. (Yes-21 No-12) Article 8 will be placed on the ballot as amended.

Article 9. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.) for the purpose of mosquito control by targeting mosquito larvae (known as larviciding) and Arbovirus Surveillance (known as trapping and testing of mosquitoes)? (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

A motion was made by Paul Watson and seconded by Robert Conner to approve Article 9. James explained that this article is similar to last years. The main difference is that trapping and surveillance have been incorporated into their plan based on the events of this year and the contractor. This is another monitoring tool available to us and it is good to have. Trapping fees are not reimbursable but with the trapping, types and quantities of mosquitoes are identified. The plan to minimize risk is to have more intense larviciding. Larviciding is the most effective way to treat mosquitoes according to the State and Dragon Mosquito. Adulticiding on a regular basis has not been proven to be effective. Adulticiding is the process of a truck driving around town spraying along the roadways. Adulticiding would be done on an emergency and as needed basis. The State will reimburse us 25% for larviciding.

Robin Conner spoke. She is a member of Moms Against EEE. She asked why the amount of this article changed to \$30,000. After attending the mosquito control public hearing in November 2007, she thought \$20,000 would be appropriated for adulticiding and \$3,000 for emergency adulticiding. James said it did not change and at that meeting they had a proposal from Dragon Mosquito with all the different options available. Adulticiding was not discussed as part of the program. The Selectmen's position on the effectiveness of adulticiding versus larviciding has not changed.

Wes commented that in his opinion adulticiding by spraying from the back of a truck is not effective. It is like throwing a bucket of water on a house fire. If we

are going to attack the mosquito problem we need to do it right. He listened to the experts who said that larviciding is the place to spend our money. If this body wishes to increase this warrant article for adulticiding as quoted by Dragon mosquito they may.

Michael Woodworth agrees that adulticiding is not effective. Areas such as the ball field will be sprayed on a regular basis throughout the summer months.

Wes added that to have the same effect each person's back yard would have to be sprayed.

Margaret Conner spoke regarding the 2008 Surveillance, Prevention and Response Plan Draft issued by the Department of Health and Human Services. This is in response to recommendations made by Moms Against EEE. We are in the highest risk area and these experts employed by our State are recommending adulticiding. The State guidelines are recommending a three pronged approach which include larviciding, adulticiding and surveillance.

James has not seen that document but he did review and read (cover to cover) the State guidelines about this. When a town is in a certain condition the response level should be increased. The Selectmen did respond to all three recommendations last summer when a human case was identified.

He went on to say that the recommendations the Selectmen are presenting are based on information they have received from experts. All experts waived when it came to the effectiveness of adulticiding. Also, there are a number of people that have expressed concern regarding the chemicals used for adulticiding and how they may affect children and pets. If the experts said to the Selectmen that it was absolutely necessary to adulticide, they would.

Natalie Fream asked if we are in communication with the school so that there is no overlapping of spraying. James confirmed that we are in coordination.

Wes would prefer to increase the amount of money to go towards larviciding rather than adulticiding.

John Cloyd mentioned that the spraying of the ball field is effective so why not spray along the roads. Bus stops where our children wait in the morning are along the roadways.

Ralph Gray asked if larviciding is done throughout the summer. James said that it is done up until the first frost. Dragon Mosquito determines when and how it gets done and they publish the locations where the larviciding takes place.

Ralph stated that there are different types of mosquitoes that carry EEE and he wanted to know if we were investigating all those types.

We are investigating all types. The species of mosquitoes that carry EEE have been found in Newfields but they did not test positive.

Robin Gray asked how often surveillance will be done. James replied that traps are set weekly for any and all mosquitoes from early June to October. They are then sent to the State lab and tested.

Robin Conner said she spoke with Sarah McGregor regarding adulticiding. Robin and The Moms Against EEE do not believe in spraying the streets except in high population areas or where mosquitoes have tested positive. Backpacks are an effective way to get out in those areas that have a high population of mosquitoes. Sarah may be able to figure out where some of those mosquitoes are based on type of terrain. We could at least get out there with a backpack to spray and try to control some of the ones with EEE.

Robin also spoke with Dr. Jason Stull for the Department of Health and Human Services. He says EEE is a public health threat in Newfields. We need an integrated pest management solution. They would like to see neighborhoods getting together and spraying their own properties as well as towns getting together and spraying.

According to Robin, the Commissioner of Health and Human Services has stated that 2008 is a public health threat. We should have a three pronged approach. We need to be proactive. We need to stand up in Newfields to show other communities that an integrated approach is more effective. Integrated pest management programs have a three pronged approach. If the State is doing it and everyone is doing it we will have a better overall effect.

Robin would like to amend this article by adding \$20,000 for adulticiding. There was a long discussion on how to amend the article and whether or not to divide it into two questions or to just put the money into pest control in the budget. On the recommendation of Moderator Bill Davis the article was split up into two questions.

A motion was made by Robin Connor and seconded by Margaret Conner to amend the article as follows:

9a. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.) for the purpose of mosquito control by targeting mosquito larvae (known as larviciding) and Arbovirus Surveillance (known as trapping and testing of mosquitoes)?

9b. Should article 9a pass, shall the town vote to raise and appropriate an additional Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) for the purpose of mosquito control by targeting adult mosquitoes by spraying, known as adulticiding.

The amendment was voted on by a show of cards and passed. Yes-16 No-15
Article 9 will be placed on the ballot as amended.

Article 10. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell to the Newfields Village Water and Sewer Department approximately 0.86 acres of land identified as a landlocked parcel off of Route 87 located on Map 206 Lot 6.1 for the purpose of a pump station for the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00)?
(The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

A motion was made by Ralph Gray and seconded by Mike Price to approve Article 10. Water Commissioner Ray Buxton explained that this land is needed for a pump house provided a new well is dug behind the McKenzie property off of Bassett Lane. A 20 x 20 building will be built on the parcel. If the Water and Sewer Department end up not needing the property it shall revert back to the Town.

Article 11. To hear reports of agents and committees or officers heretofore chosen.

There were no reports.

Article 12. To transact any other business which may legally come before the meeting.

Wes announced that this shall be James' last year on the Board. He thanked him for his service to the Town of Newfields. James' leadership has been significant and it has been a tremendous experience working with him. Wes mentioned that James worked hard towards the acquisition of the Piscassic Greenway.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McKinnon
Town Clerk

