

Draft Minutes for the ABC meeting of November 29, 2022

Members present: Steve Saunders, Michael Houst, John Morris, Scott Shephard, Peter Royce

Alternate member present: Bill Irving

Others Present: Dannen Mannschreck (Select Board Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

Concerns were raised concerning the incident fund. Should it now be lower by \$60,000? Also of concern is what a default budget would entail.

The warrant articles were then discussed. A majority of ABC members did not support the Richardson Pond Dam, Library Technology, the Police building funds, and the Energy Audit. Additionally, it was decided to suggest the Highway Equipment line be reduced to \$200,000, and the Library Capital Reserve be reduced to \$25,000.

The task then was to categorize the remaining ten warrant articles into three groups. Each article was rated on a one to three scale and the higher totals indicated more support. The results and tax impact of each are shown on the attached spreadsheet.

To summarize the top priorities were the Culvert and Bridge, the Highway (at the reduced amount), The Fire Truck, Swain's Dam, and Fire Equipment.

Next were Police Equipment, Paving, and Emergency Communications.

Last in priority were the Library Capital Reserve (at the lower amount) and the Transfer Station.

These decisions will be reviewed at the next meeting on December 6.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Submitted by Peter Royce

DRAFT

ABC Considerations Regarding Priorities of Warrant Articles

The ABC recognizes the significant financial situation facing Barrington and its taxpayers, given the burden of inflation and economic uncertainty. Unlike previous years when “surplus” operating allocations were available to fund warrant article requests, the ABC recognized the importance of proving the Select Board and taxpayers our best judgement regarding the priorities for each warrant article requested.

The ABC members used many factors when evaluating the importance of each requested item and amount.

The factor given the most weight was **safety** for residents and/or town personnel.

Also important was the **avoidance of a future tax impact** such as that which would be incurred for replacing a very costly piece of equipment by contributing lesser amounts as a “savings” toward that future expenditure, to be spread over several years.

Risk avoidance was also considered as important, especially when it concerned safety or liability issues addressed by the requested warrant article.

State mandates also had to be considered in the ranking.

The **timing** for the expenditure was another major consideration for all requests. Part of this assessment was the certainty of the year in which the expenditure would be needed, as well as whether the expenditure could be deferred beyond the requested date.

Another key consideration was the potential **availability of alternative sources of funding** for the expenditure, both in terms of recommending the item for taxpayer funding and the amount being requested for probable shared funded items.

Using these and other considerations, members then ranked each Warrant Article request on a scale of 1-3, with three being the highest. Interestingly, many of the items received the same ranking from all members. The Articles were then grouped into three categories: a) items that the ABC felt must be supported by taxpayers, even though resulting in potentially painful impact on many individuals; b) items that the ABC felt should be funded if feasible per the wishes of the taxpayers; and c) items that, while potentially creating future taxpayer burdens could be deferred if necessary.

2023 Warrant Article Prioritization Recommendations - Advisory Budget Committee

Warrant Article	Amount	Tax Impact	Tax Avg House	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	Total	Priority
Bridge and Culvert Capital Reserve	\$300,000.00	\$0.21	\$73.39	3	3	3	3	3	3	18	1
Highway Equipment Capital Reserve	\$200,000.00	\$0.14	\$48.93	3	3	3	3	3	3	18	1
Fire Truck Capital Reserve	\$100,000.00	\$0.07	\$24.46	3	3	3	3	3	3	18	1
Fire Rescue Equipment Capital Reserve	\$10,000.00	\$0.01	\$2.45	3	3	3	3	3	2	17	1
Dam Repair/Engineering/Replacement Capital Reserve	\$150,000.00	\$0.10	\$36.69	2	2	3	3	2	3	15	1
Police Equipment Capital Reserve	\$11,000.00	\$0.01	\$2.69	2	2	3	3	2	2	14	2
Paving Non-Lapsing	\$100,000.00	\$0.07	\$24.46	1	2	2	2	1	2	10	2
Emergency Communication Capital Reserve	\$50,000.00	\$0.03	\$12.23	2	1	2	1	1	2	9	3
Transfer Station Capital Reserve	\$25,000.00	\$0.02	\$6.12	2	1	1	1	1	2	8	3
Library Capital Reserve	\$25,000.00	\$0.02	\$6.12	2	1	1	1	1	1	7	3
Richardson Pond Dam Reconstruction	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Public Safety Building Design/Impact Fee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Energy Capital Reserve	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Library Technology Capital Reserve	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals	\$971,000.00	\$0.68	\$237.53								

Average Home \$350,000
Tax Impact \$237.53

Must have this year
Highly recommended but can be deferred
Minimal support and ok with being deferred
Recommended to be removed

Row Labels	Sum of Tax Impact	Sum of Tax Avg House
1	\$0.53	\$185.92
2	\$0.08	\$27.15
3	\$0.07	\$24.46
(blank)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grand Total	\$0.68	\$237.53

Updated 11/30/2022