

**Forest Project Rabbit Habitat:** Conservation recommends the timber harvest be granted to the highest bid (on revenue highest bid is best). The question for the Board is whether to waive the 10% timber tax charge. The town will receive the money either way, but if the tax is not waived it goes into general revenue and if it is waived it goes to the Conservation Commission toward the project. ***Will the Board approve the intent to cut, and award the contract? Does the Board want to waive the timber tax?***

**Grant Applications for Conservation Commission:** ***While the Board retains authority to vote to accept grants, will the Board authorize John Wallace to make applications for grants for Conservation Commission purposes including the ARM for Calef property?***

**Monfet:** The Town is buying this for \$4,700. It appears the title search is going to be expensive \$350-\$450. It could then find problems that will cost more. ***Is the Board willing to accept a quit claim deed?***

**Budget:** Here are tentative items for discussion in no particular order.

1. Salary change, COLA, STEPS, CBA as well as waiting for Health Insurance Guaranteed not to exceed, probably November 17 meeting.
2. Assessing firm is recommending that we increase their budget over what I proposed from \$25,000 to \$35,000 in anticipation of abatement requests from the revaluation. This would still be a decrease of \$55,000 from 2014 total cost. I recommend we do this.
3. Contingency fund for Road Emergencies (and/or other items). Does the Board want to do something like that in 2015 or wait?
4. Demolition of Former Town Hall, is it a separate warrant article, within the budget, or part of the bond. I recommend within the budget.
5. My recommendation is we reduce the bridge Capital Reserve back to the \$50,000.
6. Does the Board wish the \$175,000 for road paving to be in a separate nonlapsing warrant article (and use fund balance) or within the operating budget?
7. Mosquito control: I have not budgeted for it given how spread out Barrington is. Which areas are treated along with people objecting to treatment are both issues as well as cost. I believe in Plaistow we spent \$50,000 to treat the downtown. ***Does the Board wish to pursue a price to treat some or much of Barrington?***

**Meetings to discuss the Proposed Town Hall:** I believe the Board needs to meet with groups and individuals to discuss the proposed new Town Hall. An incomplete list would include Library Trustees, Recreation Commission, Better Barrington Group, Chamber, Historic Society, Bob Ott, etc.

Decisions on the Building:

- 1 Finalizing the design as regards including the cellar going forward. Does the Board want to proceed with the design for a cellar with cold storage and bathrooms?

2 I do not yet have numbers, but I believe we should be budgeting funds to pay architect fees for January to July in the operating budget rather than it being in the bond, to avoid a Bond Anticipation Note(BAN).

3 Does the board wish to go with the Construction Manager or Design Bid. If we are going Construction Manager a selection should be made in 2014. This too may impact the operating budget for budget between January and July to avoid the BAN.

4 Does the Board want to proceed with the current size building or expand it as suggested at the Saturday hearing?

5. Are there other suggestions coming out of the meeting that the Board wishes to give direction to Jason regarding, e.g. roof design, solar, etc.?

6. We are awaiting an estimate to go with the poured concrete with foam inside and out, but at some point in the design after obtaining more information a decision on that would be needed.

**Trapping:** Mr. George Burr has asked to trap fur-bearing animals on 263 lot 1, a 17 acre town-owned parcel very wet parcel on Route 125 across the road from and near northerly junction Pierce Road and 125. **Will the Board authorize trapping?**

**Adoption of "Point of Dispensing Plan": for emergency management.** The document dealing with emergency response to medical emergencies of a regional nature is exempt from the Right to Know law because of confidential response information. There is a separate section of the Right to Know statute if the Board wishes to enter nonpublic to discuss this. ***Does the Board wish to adopt it?***

**Disposal policy:** The existing disposal policy does not address items worth something, but less than \$100. It also does not deal with items over \$1,000, I believe under the theory it comes to the Board, but that is not stated. I suggest the policy be redone. ***Does the Board have some guidelines on how they would like it written to address these two categories and any other changes, or should I draft a policy and bring it to the Board for amendments, changes, etc.?***

**Information:**

**Tax rate:** The town of Barrington received the tax rate from the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration on October 24, 2014. The municipal portion of the tax rate went up 6 cents to \$4.72. The local school rate went up \$1.31 cents to \$14.35. The state school tax rate went up 7 cents to \$2.29. The Strafford County rate went up 13 cents to \$2.67. The total rate for 2014 will be \$ 24.03, an increase of \$1.57 from the 2013 rate of \$22.46. The town revalued all the property this year and the average assessment dropped 2%. A 2% drop in the assessment translates into a tax rate increase of 45 cents if all other things had remained constant. As with any reassessment, some properties changed more than the average with some going up in value and some going down much more than the 2% average decrease.

**Proposed Town Hall:** Here are Architect Jason Lacombe's comments on eliminating the Sprinkler System:

"I'm not a big advocate for planning around no sprinkler system; it's not a guarantee and may not be known until we get into full design and engineering. Furthermore our recommendation would be to install the system, after all it's a public building with an assembly area and would be worth the cost for proven increased safety. That said there are provisions in the code which allow for the building to be built without one. Ultimately it's your call, so long as we meet the building code."

**Strafford Town Hall:** It is only about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> the size of what is being proposed. Strafford is smaller with less employees, etc. The building was also built a few years ago.

**Tentative Budget Schedule:** Here is the tentative Budget schedule for the Departments to present to the Board of Selectmen. My understanding from talking with Peter Royce, Chairman of the Advisory Budget Committee, is that the members of the committee will plan to attend these presentations. After the Department Heads meet with the Selectmen, the ABC may meet with them to go over questions that might have arisen and were not answered at an ABC meeting. It is helpful if these questions are in writing so the Department Heads can research questions that are being requested to be prepared with questions the ABC has. In some of the smaller departments written responses may be sufficient. I will be unavailable November 1-15.

October 20 overview presentation to the Board (most of meeting is Green Hill Road Bridge and likely will be at ECLC instead of Annex)

October 27, DPW, Administration, Finance

November 10 Police, Recreation, Library

November 17 Planning, Tax, Government Buildings

November 24 Town Clerk, Fire Rescue, Cemetery, Building Inspection

Other possible warrant articles:

1. Ambulance replacement Capital Reserve (established 1989 #12 and then BOS agent to expend 1998 #7). It contains \$ XXX Does the Board wish to discontinue or change purpose to repair of ambulance.
2. Revaluation: Established 1994 #22, no agent to expend. It contains \$XXX. Does the Board want to discontinue or change the purpose to include measure and list or name the Board of Selectmen as agent to expend?
3. Cemetery Well and Building: Contains \$XXX. 2001 #23 Does the Board wish to put forward a warrant article to discontinue or repurpose?

4. Above and Below Water noncapital reserve. This was established in 2006 #16 “for the purpose of acquiring professional services to conduct legal and factual research regarding the identification, protection, conservation and management of water resources for the town.” The Board of Selectmen were the agent to expend. \$25,000 was put into the fund. It currently has \$25,968.74. Does the Board wish to put forward a warrant article to discontinue or repurpose?
5. Road Improvement Plan: It was established in 2008 #15 as a noncapital reserve account to study roads. This was not used when that study was done. Does the Board wish to put forward a warrant article to discontinue or repurpose?
6. Road Capital Improvement: Does the Board wish to have a warrant article to put that into the Bridge Capital Reserve fund?
7. To see if the town will vote to withdraw from the Special Detail Revolving Fund established by the 2009 Town Meeting an amount up to \$30,000, said funds to be placed in general fund balance, and also to raise and appropriate from the general fund balance an amount up to \$30,000 for the purpose of purchasing a new cruiser and/or new cruiser equipment including radios and data terminals. The Special Detail Revolving Fund currently has a balance of \$\_\_\_\_. Majority vote required. (cleared by SW)
8. Returning to fund balance the remaining amount in the 2014 appropriation to study the Svenson land.