

Town of Somers
Annual Town Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 02, 2017

The Town Clerk was requested to read the legal notice as published. The meeting was called to order by First Selectman B.Knorr at approximately 7:00 pm with an estimated attendance of 42 citizens.

1. To elect a moderator

A motion was made by K. Devlin, seconded by J.Persano to nominate B.Knorr moderator of the Annual Town Meeting – no other nominations. No Discussion – Unanimous approval of B.Knorr as moderator

2. To consider the annual budget for 2017-2018 fiscal year as proposed by the Board of Finance, consisting of total revenues and expenditures of 32,232,993.

A motion was made by B.Devlin, seconded by T.Mazzoli to approve the 2017-2018 fiscal year budget as proposed by the Board of Finance totaling revenues and expenditures of 32,232,993.

Discussion:

S.Krasinski identified himself as a former member of the Board of Finance and to his recollection the Town of Somers reduced the number of state troopers from three to one and the Town absorbed 60% of the total costs for the troopers. The State is now requiring the Town to absorb 100% of all costs and recommends the reduction in the number of troopers from three to one and therefore reducing the Police line item by \$400,000. He noted that the former First Selectman during the 2015 and 2016 fiscal years, increased the number of troopers in Town to three.

S.Krasinski motioned to amend the original motion to reduce the 2017-2018 budget by \$400,000 and reduce the mill rate accordingly. Seconded by L.LaCasse.

Discussion:

Sgt. Gordon from Troop C Barracks stated that the Town had never reduced the number of troopers within the Town to one. The Town actually realized a cost savings in hiring former troopers Claudio and Mazza. Lt. Claudio has no administrative responsibilities over the state troopers and the local constables are not authorized to investigate certain crimes under their current contract.

M.Marinaccio made a motion to amend the amended motion to reduce the proposed 2017-2018 budget by \$1.00, seconded by B.Devlin.

Discussion:

M.Marinaccio stated that individuals should not be allowed to amend valid motions based on erroneous information. Decisions made by the current Board of Finance were based on Public Safety and accurate information. K.Devlin noted that should cuts be made to the Police budget, the SRO would be jeopardized. At the current time, the SRO is an invaluable asset considering the opioid crisis that exists. J.Persano, Chairperson of the Board of Finance stated that the State Trooper support to the Town of Somers is invaluable.

Atty Landolina informed the audience that it is inappropriate not to allow a citizen to present a motion to the Town Meeting and to act upon the motion appropriately regardless of information. The guidelines are outlined by both Charter and State Statutes.

Question was asked why there is such a dramatic increase in the budget for police protection. B.Wissinger, Asst to the Finance Director explained that the State now requires towns with troopers to pick-up 100% of costs and 97.1% of benefits.

The Moderator of the Town Meeting called for a vote on S.Krasinski's motion of reducing the proposed 2017-2018 budget by \$400,000. All in favor: 13, those opposed numbered 16 – motion failed.

The Moderator of the Town Meeting called for a vote on the original motion – All in favor: 23, those opposed numbered 7 – motion carried.

3. Adjournment

A motion was made by J.Persano, seconded by B.Devlin and unanimously voted to set the date, time and place for the referendum on the question of adopting the annual budget be held on Tuesday, May 09, 2017 between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 pm at the Somers Town Hall Auditorium

A motion was made by J.Tolisano, seconded by B.Devlin and unanimously voted to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting of Tuesday, May 02, 2017 at approximately 7:51 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Logan, CCTC
Town Clerk, Town of Somers