

Bristol Select Board
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2022

Present: Select Board members: Chair Don Milbrand, Anita Avery, Shaun Lagueux, JP Morrison, and Nik Coates, Town Administrator

Absent: Les Dion

Others Present: Cade Overton, Media Manager

Public Session: Chair Milbrand opened the public meeting at 5:30pm.

Manifests: Mr. Milbrand made a motion to approve the AP manifests dated February 10, 2022, seconded by Mr. Lagueux. Board voted 4-0-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Consideration of 10% Override Language for Warrant: Mr. Coates informed the Board that the Budget Committee voted 2-3-0 to Not Recommend Warrant Article #10, the Public Safety Building project. Mr. Coates explained this could cause difficulty at Town Meeting for funding requests beyond the operating budget. According to RSA 32:18, Town Meeting can only appropriate up to 10% more than the total amount recommended by the Budget Committee, less certain “fixed charges” (debt service on bonds/notes except tax anticipation notes, and mandatory assessments imposed by another governmental entity). He shared the calculation that he and Attorney Fillmore worked on:

\$7,745,239	Total operating budget recommended by Budget Committee (Article 11)
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LESS fixed charges included in operating budget:

\$ 230,521	Total principal for long-term debt
\$ 38,829	Total interest for long-term debt
\$ 1	Bond anticipation note interest
\$ 56,079	Sewer debt service
\$ 62,325	Water debt service

\$7,357,484	Adjusted operating budget recommended by Budget Committee
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PLUS other recommended appropriations in separate warrant articles:

\$ 25,000	Article 12
\$ 12,000	Article 13
\$ 332,000	Article 14
\$ 141,000	Article 15

\$7,687,484.00	TOTAL AMOUNT RECOMMENDED BY BUDGET COMMITTEE FOR 10% CALCULATION
\$ 768,748.40	10% of the adjusted total amount recommended by Budget Committee
\$8,474,232.40	Maximum total amount Town Meeting may approve for operating budget and separate warrant articles (except Article 10 and debt service portions of operating budget)

Mr. Coates asked if the Board would consider placing 10% override language into the warrant article so that if Warrant Article #10 passed, the other items on the warrant could be funded if the voters voted that way. Attorney Fillmore also advised that the Board did not need to revote on the entire warrant article but should vote to amend the language of the article. He supplied a copy of what the new Warrant Article would look like with the override language needing to come at the beginning as required by RSA.

Article 10: Passage of this article will override the ten percent limitation imposed on this appropriation due to the non-recommendation of the Budget Committee. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Four Million Eight Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,875,500) to pay for the final design and construction of a new Public Safety Building and to authorize the issuance of not more than Four Million Eight Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,875,500) of bonds or notes, in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act, (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. The first principal and interest payments will be included in the 2023 budget. (3/5 ballot vote required, polls open for one hour).

The Budget Committee Does Not Recommend this Article 2-3-0
The Select Board Recommends this Article 5-0-0

In the notes he sent to the Board, Attorney Fillmore provided a motion of how to make the change, which read:

I move that the Select Board approve warrant Article 10, which proposes a bond for final design and construction of a new public safety building and include it in the warrant for the March 2022 town meeting over the non-recommendation of the Budget Committee pursuant to RSA 32:18-a, I, and that we insert into the article the statutory language to override the 10% limitation.

Mr. Lagueux made that motion, seconded by Ms. Avery. The Board voted 4-0-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Vote on Operating Budget Warrant Article: Mr. Coates let the Board know that Warrant Article #11, the Operating Budget warrant article was ready to vote on now that the Budget Committee has finished its work.

Mr. Lagueux made a motion to place Article #11 on the Warrant, seconded by Ms. Avery. No discussion. The Board voted 4-0-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Lagueux made a motion to Recommend Article #11, seconded by Mr. Morrison. No discussion. The Board voted 4-0-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Select Board Items: None.

Adjourn: Mr. Lagueux made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:37pm, seconded by Ms. Avery. The Board voted 4-0-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicholas J. Coates, Town Administrator