

**MINUTES
TOWN OF PEMBROKE
BUDGET COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 12, 2009**

DRAFT

Members Present: David Freeman-Woolpert, Chair; Mark LePage, Vice Chair; Gerry Fleury; Ray Foss; Charles Connor; Michael Connor; Stacey Sheldon; Bruce Kurinskas; Tom Serafin, School Board Rep.; Fred Kline, Selectmen Rep.

Others: Dave Jodoin, Town Administrator; Mike Reardon, Headmaster, Pembroke Academy

Documents Distributed: 2009 Town Warrant; MS-7; MS-27

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

A motion to approve the minutes of February 5, 2008 as amended was made by Ray, seconded by Fred, and passed by unanimous vote.

David F-W reviewed updates to tax rate forecast.

Tom reviewed an article regarding the Governor's Proposed Budget, School Administrators Association which included information on the correct levels of the adequate education fund as well as other items. The committee discussed how these items relate to Pembroke and if the budget should be changed to reflect the State proposals. It was determined that it is too early to estimate the impact.

Tom updated the committee on the last school board meeting stating that the committee agreed that it does not make financial sense to move forward with phase 2 of the Honeywell project at this time.

Dave F-W asked if the school board and the selectmen had any additional information for the committee's review. The general opinion of the committee was that no more discussion be allowed as they have already had the opportunity to present their proposals. A member was concerned over discrepancies on information given at the public hearing versus the last meeting.

Gerry asked where the town stands with property tax delinquencies, collection of tax, if the numbers have been revised, and if it is possible to get a comparison of 2008 taxes versus past years. Dave Jodoin stated that the numbers have remained approximately the same.

TOWN

Changes to the Town Warrant were discussed and updated copies distributed. David Jodoin indicated that for the past two years, recommendations by the selectmen and the budget committee have appeared on the Town Warrant for all monetary articles. DRA is now requiring that only petition or special articles be recommended by the selectmen and the budget committee and in this year's warrant there are two such articles (3 & 6). He stated that the selectmen had recently agreed to show their recommendations on the Warrant however, they will re-address this issue at their next meeting considering DRA's requirement. Fred pointed out that in the future, a warrant article could be prepared so that the town could vote to show the selectmen and budget committee votes on whether or not they were in favor of the monetary articles. David F-W asked the committee to vote on all recommendations for the monetary articles so that all information is available when the selectmen decide on whether or not the recommendations will appear on the Warrant.

A motion to recommend Article 3 as written was made, seconded, discussed and failed 1-9.

Motions to recommend Articles 4, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 were made, discussed and passed unanimously.

A motion to recommend Article 9 was made, seconded, discussed and passed 9-1.

A motion to recommend Article 10 as written was made, seconded, discussed and failed 0-10. David F-W will specify at town meeting that members would have supported this article if the cost of the collection carts were funded through taxes versus user fees.

There was discussion pertaining to the operating budgets for Pembroke Water Works and the Sewer Department being included in the town's budget as well as appearing as warrant articles. David Jodoin will get clarification from DRA on whether or not articles 16 & 17 should be removed from the Town Warrant and will address the issue at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Motions to recommend Articles 16 and 17 were made, discussed and passed unanimously.

A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed unanimously to approve the MS-7 with the understanding that before signature, lines 4915 (\$200) and 4902 (\$252,000) will be moved to the "Not Recommended" column. David Jodoin will make this change.

SCHOOL

Motions to recommend Articles 3-6 were made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

A motion to recommend Article 7 in the amount of \$23,606,921 was made, seconded, discussed and withdrawn.

A motion to recommend Article 7 in the amount of \$23,588,989 which is the original proposed budget of \$23,713,989 minus \$125,000 for the alternative high school initiative was made, seconded and discussed at length. (The original figure does not include the additional math teacher.) Tom reviewed the benefits of the alternative high school and Mike Reardon gave a general overview of the program. A committee member had concerns regarding discrepancies in some specifics of program that were stated at a prior budget committee meeting versus the public hearing. After this discussion, the motion passed 8-2.

The MS-27 will be updated to reflect the changes and Tom will forward copies to all members via e-mail. Committee members agreed to appear at Town Hall on Tuesday, February 17th to sign the updated MS-27 School Budget as recommended by the Committee and provided by Tom Serafin, School Board Representative.

Members signed the MS-7 Municipal Budget as recommended by the Committee and provided by David Jodoin, Town Administrator. (This document was updated during this meeting.)

David Freeman-Woolpert thanked the committee for attending all meetings and finding ways to work together by listening and being objective to allow for differences of opinion. He asked that all members try to attend both the School District Meeting and the Town Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

School District Meeting - Deliberative and Voting – Saturday, March 7, 2009
Town Meeting - Voting – Tuesday, March 10, 2009
Town Meeting - Deliberative and Voting – March 14, 2009