

ISSUES AT TOWN MEETING

Allowing More Building Permits (Warrant Article 2, on the ballot)

By the Andover Planning Board

A “Yes” vote on Article 2 of the Town of Andover warrant will relax the limit on the issuance of residential building permits to allow 10 new residences, instead of the five allowed by Article XI, Section 7 of the Andover Zoning Ordinance.

Last year, 2010, the residential building permits allowed by this ordinance was the lowest in its history: three. This prevented consideration of several permits at a time when some growth was desired by the building trades, and the limit had proven to be unnecessary.

The Planning Board has prepared and recommends approval of this increase in the limit posed by this ordinance. The ordinance itself “sunset” in 2012.

The threat of overburdening Andover schools and municipal services by rampant building of new residences may be considered next year when this ordinance expires. However, there appears to be good reason to relax the limit this year through approval of Warrant Article 2.

Note: As required by state law, Warrant Article 2 is not voted upon at Town Meeting. Instead, it is a ballot question

to be voted upon on Tuesday, March 8, from 11:30 AM to 7 PM.

Purchasing A Backhoe/Loader (Warrant Article 3)

By Vicky Mishcon

Andover Board of Selectmen

Warrant Article 3 asks Town Meeting “to raise and appropriate the sum of \$130,000 for the purchase of a backhoe/loader and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$110,000 of bonds or notes ...”

To clarify, the Selectmen are asking to spend no more than \$130,000 toward the purchase of this machine. We will look for the best deal in financing, whether it’s through a lease/purchase agreement or a bank loan. Interest rates for municipal loans are around 1.5%, so the interest should not total more than five to six thousand dollars total over five years. Payments of \$25,000 per year for five years will be taken from the equipment rental line in the existing budget.

There will be no additional cost to the taxpayer beyond what’s already in the budget if this article is passed. We’re essentially buying, fueling, and maintaining a backhoe that should last for 15 years with what we would have spent on renting one over the next five years.

The backhoe and loader are the most

expensive pieces of equipment for the Town to rent. With the newly established rates, which *do not* include the operator, the Town spends on average \$37,000 per year renting these two pieces of equipment.

The Selectmen propose purchasing a backhoe/loader for no more than \$130,000. Payments of approximately \$25,000 would be made over five years. Fuel costs are estimated at \$4,000 per year and maintenance at \$5,000 per year. Insurance is negligible at \$50 as an add-on to the Town’s policy. Cost comparison of rental versus purchase is shown in the chart below.

The plan is to use the backhoe/loader not only in the highway department, but at the Transfer Station as well. The backhoe could replace the skid steer and could also be used to pack down the contents of the construction and demolition container, thereby reducing transportation. This is just one example of greater efficiency leading to savings.

Appointed Road Agent (Warrant Article 14)

By Vicky Mishcon

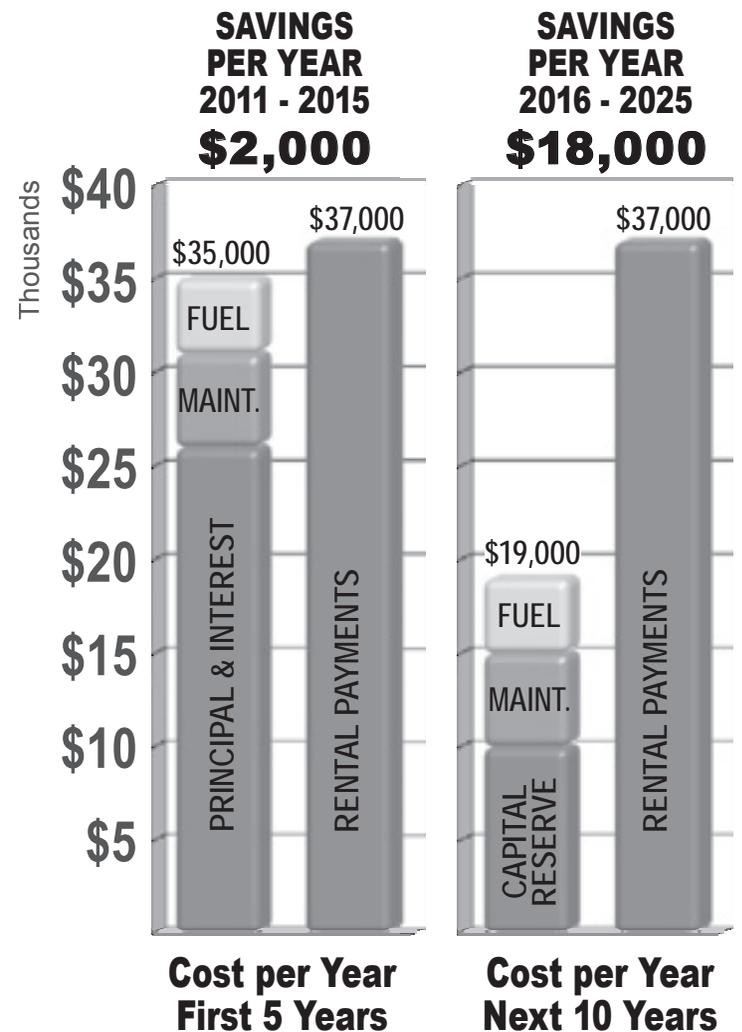
Andover Board of Selectmen

Warrant Article 14 comes near the end of the warrant (see page 17) because it is not a “money article” and, accord-



A backhoe/loader of about the size proposed in Warrant Article 3.

TOTAL SAVINGS \$190,000



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