

Town Meeting from page 7

Duncan: I would encourage people to get involved in this process early. Don't wait until Town Meeting, don't wait until a week before Town Meeting. Get involved in the process all the way along. We need participation of everybody in town to make the kind of progress we need to make. And everyone has something to offer.

[It was announced much later in the meeting that Article 6 failed on a secret ballot with 80 yes and 96 no.]

Moderator Dan Coolidge then called for discussion of Article 12, which also required a ballot vote, so the meeting could vote by secret ballot on both Article 6 and Article 12 at the same time.

Article 12: \$25,000 loan to purchase a police cruiser. A two-thirds vote by secret ballot is required for the article to pass.

Andy Guptill: Will we be able to postpone the next purchase of a cruiser so we can get back on schedule?

Selectman Jim Danforth: Our metric for replacing a cruiser every eight years has failed us – the cruisers are getting too old and costing too much to maintain by the time they're eight years old..

Andover Police Chief Glenn Laramie: We've bought two 4WD vehicles, which we really needed, and that took some money out of the police cruiser fund.

When we started budgeting ahead for cruisers, we were running one shift

a day. Now we're running two, two and a half shifts a day. We're fortunate we don't have to buy a cruiser every year, like some communities, but we need to get back on the plan we were on.

We got behind because we needed to buy 4WD vehicles. This plan will put us back on track, and we'll save money on maintenance because we'll have newer vehicles.

Bill Keyser: I fail to see why a town this size needs three or four cruisers. Most towns this size have one or no more than two. I don't ever recall the town financing a vehicle. Is doing the road construction details economically feasible?

Greg Stetson: There's over \$20,000 in the police detail revolving fund. Could we use that?

Glenn Laramie: The Town can't touch that account – it's just for Andover Police Department to use, with the Board of Selectmen's approval, for equipment so I don't have to ask Town Meeting for the money. There are rifles that need to be replaced and other major purchases coming.

Jim Danforth: We use the oldest cruiser for road construction detail work, and use the detail work to help keep our part-time officers busy and make the part-time job attractive to skilled law enforcement people.

[It was announced much later in the

meeting that Article 12 passed on a secret ballot with 118 yes and 57 no.]

The moderator sent the meeting attendees to the polls to vote on Article 6 and Article 12. While that was happening, the meeting recognized:

- Bryant Adams, who passed away in 2013 after many years of tending to the Highland Lake Dam
- Pat Cutter, who is stepping down from long service with the Cemetery Trustees
- Irene Jewett, who is stepping down



Selectman Jim Danforth

from long service with the Supervisors of the Checklist

- Don Gould, who is stepping down from long service with the Planning Board
- Vicky Mishcon, who is stepping down after two terms on the Board of Selectmen

After the polls closed, the meeting continued with Article 7.

Article 7: \$1,384,331 for the Town Budget.

Andy Guptill: Single-stream recycling is costing us \$28,000 per year, but we're not budgeting enough. We're also not budgeting enough for our Road Agent.

Cemetery Trustee Robin Boynton: The cemetery line item is about \$2,000 short of what we need to meet our obligations this year. She moved to add \$2,000 to the cemetery line item of the budget. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Ed Becker: The school district spends less than the Town spends on audit fees. Have we looked into why that is and whether we can save money?

Town Administrator Marj Roy: I've talked to several different audit firms,

and they tell me that auditing a town is harder than auditing a school because of the many tests that must be done on a town's revenue streams. The school gets its money mostly from taxes. The Town has many different revenue streams, and they must audit each one.

Ed Becker: Why do we need to spend \$18,000 on computers this year?

Marj: That money is not completely on computers. It also includes software support. We've checked, and the company we're using is competitive and provides great service. We did check with several other companies.

Ed: How do you pick which organizations to support under Health and Welfare? Why is Lake Sunapee VNA included but not Franklin VNA?

Budget Committee member Arch Weathers: When we have our public hearing of the Andover Budget Committee, we look forward to people coming and making suggestions.

Ed moved to remove Council On Aging and Lake Sunapee Regional Visiting Nurse Association donations.

Budget Committee member Jim Delaney: Both organizations help our seniors out and don't charge them.

Marj: Both are funded in a large part by the municipalities they serve. COA provided over 11,000 miles in rides to Andover seniors. LSRVNA provided 1,745 hours of nursing therapy and in-home care for Andover residents, much of it non-billable. Three Andover residents received hospice visits.

Toby Locke: I urge you not to take this money out of this fund. These elderly people have supported the town for 60, 70 years – it's time for us to give a little back. "I hate my tax bill, but something like that I don't mind paying."

Lynn Baker: VNA is keeping people in their homes instead of in the Merrimack County Nursing home. It's an invaluable service.

Mark Stetson, Richard Brewster, and Donna McCabe also spoke against the amendment, which failed.

Ed made a motion to add money to support Franklin VNA.

Moderator Dan Coolidge advised it would not be a legal vote because it

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Highland Lake

Andover – 100' of Waterfront, Features: 2 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 Baths, 2 Car Garage, Wood Floors, Spacious New Deck, New Heating System, New Septic System and Walkout Lower Level.



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