MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lori Loughlin at 6:15 p.m.

MINUTES: Richard Gobi made a motion to approve the minutes of May 18, 2016 as presented. Pam Griffing second. Vote was unanimous to approve the minutes of May 18, 2016 as presented.

WARRANT ARTICLES FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: Selectmen Jack Tivnan, Accountant Marie Arsenault and Executive Secretary Johanna Swain were present to answer questions. Jack Tivnan obtained a legal opinion that longevity stipends may not be taken away once granted. The Selectboard granted the Town Clerk and Treasurer a longevity stipend after the warrant was posted and this will be amended at Town Meeting. Jack said the rate of pay used for approved sick days is the last rate of pay. Richard Gobi asked if this policy could be changed and the answer was yes that they could change the employee handbook. When asked what happens to investment income, the accountant said that it is closed out at the end of the year to free cash and the amount is about $11,000. When asked what happens to interest on stabilization accounts, the accountant said it is the law that the interest be put into the stabilization accounts. Richard Gobi said the Advisory Committee would like to take $195,000 out of the Water Stabilization Account instead of borrowing for the New Braintree Road Water Project. Johanna will draw up a motion to take the money out of stabilization. She stated it will take a two-thirds vote to take money out of stabilization.

WARRANT ARTICLES FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING:

Article #1: Raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury a sum of money to be placed in the Legal Counsel Expense Account. The amount is approximately $79,000 but may increase if more invoices are received. Pam Griffing asked what the process was for departments to contact town counsel and Johanna said that the Board of Health had a line item in their budget and departments are supposed to contact the Selectboard.
Article #2: Raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury a sum of money to be placed into the General Insurance Account to pay for medical invoices from FY14 and FY15. The amount is $8,100.

When asked where the money was coming from, Johanna stated it was unknown at this time.

REMAINING ARTICLES:

Article #3: Compensation for elected officials: Advisory Committee recommends
Article #4: Omnibus budget: Advisory Committee recommends.
Article #12: Loader for Highway Department: Advisory Committee recommends
Article #13: New Braintree Water Project: Advisory Committee to amend taking $195,000 out of Water Stabilization Account at Town Meeting.
Article #16: Senior Property Tax Work-Off Program: Advisory Committee recommends.
Article #17: Stretch Energy Code: Advisory Committee recommends passing over because of insufficient information.
Article #18: Account sick pay: Advisory Committee recommends.
Article #19: 5 Foster Hill Road. Advisory Committee recommends passing over because of too many unanswered questions.
Article #20: Town Road Maintenance Account: Advisory Committee recommends.
Article #21: Grant Writer: Advisory Committee recommends.
Article #22: Town Building Maintenance: Advisory Committee recommends.
Article #23: Tax Title Expense Account: Hold.
Article #25: Update Master Plan: Advisory Committee recommends.
Article #26: Landfill Maintenance: Advisory Committee recommends.

Pam Griffing made a motion to approve the recommendations. Tom Long second. Vote was unanimous to approve the recommendations to the remaining articles listed above.

TOWN MEETING NIGHT: Chair Lori Loughlin will make a very brief opening statement. Pam Griffing suggested introducing the members of the Advisory Committee and their backgrounds and this will be done. Article #13: Richard Gobi will present the amendment to the New Braintree Water Project. Tom Long will comment. Article #4: School. Lori and others will speak. Article #15 General Insurance: Hold. Article #12: Front end loader: Tom will speak. Article #27 Town Manager: Pam Griffing will speak. Robert Blozie was disappointed that we were not able to inform the public before the Town Meeting.
After reviewing financial information received from the accountant, Pam Griffing felt if all articles passed and the school above minimum contribution remained at $250,000 that we were not in too bad of shape.

Robert Blozie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Long second. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary