

FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING

JUNE 5, 2006

The annual Financial Town Meeting was called to order by James A. Donnelly, Town Moderator, at 7:09 PM at the Jamestown School, 55 Lawn Avenue. The following Town Council members were present:

David J. Long, President
Julio J. DiGiando, Vice President
William A. Kelly
Michael Schnack
Barbara A. Szepatowski

as well as School Committee members:

Catherine L. Kaiser, Chair
William "Bucky" C. Brennan
Julie A. Kallfelz
Julia K. Held
James R. Filkins

also present were:

Bruce R. Keiser, Town Administrator
Arlene D. Petit, Town Clerk
James Donnelly, Town Moderator
Christina D. Collins, Deputy Finance Director
J. William W. Harsch, Esq., Town Solicitor
Fred Pease, Town Sergeant
Katherine E. Sipala, School Superintendent

The Town Moderator set out the order of the meeting. Mr. Donnelly noted that there was a typographical error in Resolution Number 4, entitled "APPROPRIATION FOR A NEW TOWN HALL FACILITY AND BORROWING THEREFOR THROUGH ISSUANCE OF BONDS". The last paragraph of Resolution Number 4 should read as follows: "The foregoing authorizations are in addition to the authorizations incorporated in Resolution # ~~1~~ **4** passed as the 2005 financial town meeting.

DAVID J. LONG, TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Council President Long addressed the 160 (eventual number) recognizing the efforts of the Town Administrator, Town Council, Superintendent of Schools, Finance Director and School Business Manager in developing a budget that is fair and responsible and a budget that provides for the needs of the Town, while maintaining a tax rate that is not overly burdensome to Jamestown's residents. Council President Littman stated that Jamestown is in a sound fiscal position, efficiently run, with an expanding tax base, a substantial unreserved fund and minimal indebtedness. Additionally, President Littman noted that the Town's bond rating has been increased to an A1, which reflects the Town's financial well-being and would make it easier and less expensive to borrow for future capital projects.

Council President Littman noted the need to upgrade the town's facilities and specifically referred to Resolution Number 4, appropriation for preliminary expenditures for a new town hall facility at 93 Narragansett Avenue and Resolution Number 5, appropriation for preliminary expenditures for a highway barn to be constructed at the entrance of the Jamestown transfer station.

Council President Littman reported that the increase in overall spending for the town is approximately 5.3%, the tax rate will be set at \$9.09 per \$1,000.00 with a corresponding increase in the tax rate of 4.72%. While stating that the tax rate in Jamestown is among the lowest, President Littman recognized the need that the Town must continue to be careful with spending and to proceed carefully with contract negotiations.

Council President Littman reviewed the appropriations in the budget for the Fort Getty capital improvement plan; funds towards the purchase of a new pump truck for the Fire Department; and the creation of incentive plans for the volunteer fire department and the emergency medical services, whereby maintaining the volunteer status of both entities and ensuring the protection of the health and welfare of the community. Council President Littman noted that the budget also includes State mandated funding for the under funded pension plan maintained by the State, as well as increases in costs relating to Workmen's Compensation and liability insurance, all totaling approximately \$120,000.00.

Council President Littman concluded by thanking members of the Town Council, Town staff and the community for the opportunity to work towards the improvement of life in the Jamestown community.

CATHERINE KAISER, SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIR

Catherine Kaiser, Chair of the Jamestown School Committee asked for support of the budget as presented. Ms. Kaiser acknowledged the leadership of the Superintendent of Schools, Katherine Sipala and her commitment to providing quality education. Ms. Kaiser noted that the School Committee has adopted a three part approach to cost containment by taking a hard look at cost and effectiveness of the district's programs in preparation of next year's budget cycle; evaluating the possibility of reorganizing or consolidating administrative operations and actively exploring the feasibility of sharing services with neighboring districts.

Ms. Kaiser, on behalf of the School Committee, thanked the Town Council and Town Administrator for working with the School Committee in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect throughout the budget preparation. Ms. Kaiser stated that the School Committee looks forward to working with the new Town Council and Town Administrator in building the collaborative relationship that is essential in good government. Ms. Kaiser encouraged the assembly to pass the budget as presented.

READING OF THE WARRANT

There was a motion made and seconded to waive the reading of the warrant and resolutions. There being no discussion, the motion was put to a voice vote, which clearly carried.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution Number 1, Sewer Line Frontage Tax Rate:

It was moved by Council President Littman, seconded by Councilor Long to approve Resolution Number 1, setting the sewer line frontage tax rate. There being no discussion, the voice vote was taken and the motion clearly carried.

Resolution Number 2, Borrowing in Anticipation of Taxes:

It was moved by Council President Littman, seconded by Councilor DiGiando to approve Resolution Number 2, borrowing in anticipation of taxes. There being no discussion the voice vote was taken and the motion clearly carried.

Resolution Number 3, Disposition of Collected Back Taxes:

It was moved by Council President Littman, seconded by Councilor Ferguson to approve Resolution Number 3, disposition of collected back taxes. There being no discussion the voice vote was taken and the motion clearly carried.

Resolution Number 4, Appropriation for Preliminary Expenditures for a New Town Hall Facility and Borrowing Therefor Through Issuance of Bonds:

It was moved by Council President Littman, seconded by Councilor DiGiando to approve Resolution Number 4.

David Dolce, Keel Avenue

Mr. Dolce expressed his concern with the projects in the presence of all sewer projects and requested that the Council wait one year. Mr. Dolce stated that he would like see the work on the highway facility proceed.

There being no other discussion, the voice vote was taken and clearly carried.

Resolution Number 5, Appropriation for Preliminary Expenditures for Highway Barn and Borrowing Therefor Through Issuance of Bonds:

It was moved by Council President Littman, seconded by Councilor Ferguson to approve Resolution Number 5.

Rosemary Woodside, Skysail Court, opposed the location for the placement of the highway facility because of concerns relating to the water supply.

Arthur Christman, Windsor Street, stated that the conditions at the present highway barn are deplorable. Mr. Christman was in favor of the proposed location at the transfer station.

Walter Boll, Clinton Avenue, stated that he was in favor of the proposed location for the highway facility.

Ellen Winsor, East Shore Road, stated that the dump in on the super fund list and should not go forward until the land has been tested on all perimeters.

Michael Woodside, Skysail Court, stated that although it is long overdue he is concerned with the groundwater in that area. Mr. Woodside stated that there are a lot of issues regarding the water and wetlands which should be looked into.

There being no further discussion on Resolution 5, a voice vote was taken and clearly carried.

It was moved by Council President Littman, seconded by Councilor DiGiando to approve the Council recommended budget for the Fiscal Year 2006 in the amount of \$17,648,168.00.

There being no discussion, the voice vote was taken and the motion clearly carried.

It was moved by Council President Littman, seconded by Councilor DiGiando that it be resolved that the electors of the Town of Jamestown, qualified to vote on any proposition to impose a tax, in the Town Meeting legally assembled on this 6th day of June 2005 hereby order the assessment and collection of a tax on the ratable real estate and tangible personal property in the sum not less than \$14,453,731.00, or not less than \$9.09 nor more than \$9.16 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. There being no discussion, the voice vote was taken and the motion clearly carried.

There being no further business before the Council, it was moved by Councilor DiGiando, seconded by Councilor Long to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM. The voice vote clearly carried.

Attest:

Arlene D. Petit
Town Clerk

C: Town Council Members (5)
Town Administrator
Town Solicitor
Finance Director

Board of Canvassers
School Committee
Tax Assessor
Administrative Circulation