FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN FY18 BUDGET MEETING – JANUARY 25, 2017

PRESENT: PAULO DEOLIVEIRA, CHAIR; TOM DURAWA, CO-CHAIR; MORT FEAREY, JR.; ROBBIE COAD; LES BAYNES; DONNA LOWELL-BETTENCOURT; STEVE JORDAN

MARGARET SERPA, ART SMADBECK, SELECTMEN; PAM DOLBY, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DREDGE: PETER VINCENT; DONNY BENEFIT; JULIETTE MULINARE; JANE VARKONDA; STEVE HANDY.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:00 PM.

THE DREDGE COMMITTEE WAS PRESENT TO UPDATE THE SELECTMEN AND FAC REGARDING THE CONDITION OF THE 25 YR OLD DREDGE. EARLIER, THEY SUBMITTED AN ARTICLE FOR A NEW DREDGE, BUT WITH LARGE EXPENDITURES THIS FISCAL YEAR, IT WAS WITHDRAWN. A LEASE/BUY PROPOSAL WAS RESEARCHED AND IT WAS FINALLY DETERMINED AFTER LOOKING AT THE COST OF THE PER YEAR OUTLAY PLUS INTEREST, IT WAS MORE COST EFFECTIVE PURCHASE AND THE ARTICLE WOULD GO ON THE WARRANT AS AN OVERRIDE VOTE.

STEVE HANDY WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH ELLICOTT, A DREDGING COMPANY, WHO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PURCHASING THE OLD DREDGE. HE WILL GET A DEFINITE QUOTE FROM THEM, NOT JUST AN ESTIMATE OF VALUE. WHEN QUESTIONED IF THE ARTICLE FAILS AT TOWN MEETING COULD THE CURRENT DREDGE STILL BE OF SERVICE, THE ANSWER WAS YES, WITH SOME EXPENSIVE COST REPAIRS, AND THE USAGE OF THE OLD DREDGE WOULD BE LIMITED IN ORDER NOT TO HAVE ANY BREAKDOWNS IN THE MIDDLE OF A PROJECT. THE OUTER HARBOR NEEDS TO BE DREDGED IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS AND THE CURRENT DREDGE PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE UP TO THE TASK.

THE WARRANT WILL BE UPDATED WHEN THE FINAL FIGURES ARE AVAILABLE.

PAM UPDATED THE COMMITTEE REGARDING THE SALARY SCALE. IT WILL BE ACCEPTED AND PUT ON THE WARRANT. DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE REGARDING THE ARTICLE FOR 1.5% COLA FOR EMPLOYEES. IT WAS DISCUSSEDTHAT WITH THE NEW SALARY SCALE, SHOULD THE COLA ARTICLE BE REMOVED. IT WAS THE FEELING OF THE FAC AND SELECTMEN TO LEAVE THE COLA IN PLACE, AS IT HAS BEEN A FORMULA THAT HAS WORKED WELL IN THE PAST AND THEY SAW NO REASON TO CHANGE IT NOW.

THE ARTICLES WERE CALLED OUT AND A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED AND VOTED TO APPROVE ALL ARTICLES EXCEPT FOR ARTICLE 19, ARTICLE 20, and ARTICLE 24, WHICH WERE PASSED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

ARTICLE 19: PURCHASE (YELLOW HOUSE) PROPERTY AT 66 MAIN STREET. DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE ABOUT WHAT THE PROPERTY WOULD BE USED FOR, IE; TOWN HAL EXPANSION, PARKING, LEASE, ETC. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE RESEARCH BY TOWN COUNCIL AND IT WAS DECIDED TO LEAVE THE ARTICLE ON THE WARRANT, WITH FUNDS SPLIT BETWEEN BORROWING AND CPC FUNDS.

ARTICLE 20: LEASE THE PROPERTY AT 66 MAIN STREET (YELLOW HOUSE). TO LEAVE ON THE WARRANT.

ARTICLE 24: CORE PROGRAM FUNDING – QUESTION REGARDING WHAT THE PROGRAM COVERED. IT WILL REMAIN ON THE WARRANT.

ARTICLE 67: PETITION ARTICLE FOR SANCTUARY STATUS. AS IT IS NOT A MONETARY ARTICLE, THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT HAVE TO RECOMMEND. IT HAS TO REMAIN ON THE WARRANT AS IT WAS A PETITION ARTICLE.

A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED AND VOTED TO APPROVE ARTICLES 19, 20, 24. MOTION CARRIED, 1 ABSTENTION ART. 19; UNANIMOUS 20 AND 24. ARTICLE 67 WILL REMAIN BECAUSE OF PETITION.

PAM WILL UPDATE THE WARRANT LIST WHERE NEEDED AND PROVIDE NEW FREE CASH AND REVENUE FIGURES. SHE WILL EMAIL THE FAC AND SELECTMEN THE REPORTS.

A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED AND VOTED TO APPROVE THE BUDGET MINUTES FOR JANUARY 18 AND JANUARY 19, 2017. ONE ABSTENTION, (ONE MEMBER NOT PRESENT). 6 YEAS, 1 NAY.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:25 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, GAIL AVAKIAN, ASSISTANT