

Warrant Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Salisbury Public Library, Meeting Room 10/11/2022, 6:00 PM

Attendees: Tom Treat (TT), Larry Cuddire (LC), Don Egan (DE), Stephen Roth (SR), David Holscher (DH); also town Manager Neil Harrington (NH), Finance Director Karen Snow (KS)

Absent: Angelica Medina (AM)

1. Call to Order. Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM
2. Public Hearing on Warrant Articles for the October 24 Annual Fall Town Meeting
DE Moved to Open Public Hearing, Second by LC; Vote unanimous in favor
 - Articles taken out of order for those interested in addressing articles.
 - Article Twenty-Nine:
 - Lynn Welch (LW) present to discuss article. Proposal is to change appointing power for ZBA from Town Manager to the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Welch suggested that the current setup provides a great deal of control to the Town Manager, while the Board of Selectmen are voted in/out of their positions and are more directly accountable to the citizens.
 - NH responded that since 1989 and adoption of new charter, Salisbury has had a strong Town Manager from of government, which has worked well. He saw no reason to make this change.
 - LW stated that two years ago proposed change was done in reverse with wording flipped, ZBA appointing power given back to the Town Manager.
 - NH responded that the Town Manager has always appointed the ZBA and the Zoning Bylaw was corrected to match the Town Charter.
 - NH stated that Bylaw changes need to be approved by Massachusetts Attorney General.
 - Article Thirty: Lynn Welch (LW) made same argument re: changing appointing authority for Conservation Commission from the Town Manager to the Board of Selectmen
 - Article Thirty-One:
 - Stacey and Mark Warcewicz said they are interested in having small-scale ground-mounted solar on their property, but were denied a building permit because it is not allowed by current zoning. They have been working with the Planning Dept. to write a new bylaw, but the process has gone on for 6 months with no resolution, so they wrote their own bylaw.
 - NH noted that the Town is in favor of the intent of the proposed bylaw, but there may be some issues in terms of conflicts with the existing solar bylaw and questions about where small-scale ground mounted solar will be allowed in town because the proposed bylaw does not amend the existing Table of Uses. He noted that the matter has been referred to the Planning Board for a public hearing, which will be held on October 12. He recommended that the applicant discuss the matter with the Planning Board and try to reach agreement on some

amendments. He suggested that WAC consider holding another meeting just before Town Meeting following Planning Board hearing.

- DE detailed specific areas of the zoning bylaws that will require revisions to implement the proposed article, so there are no conflicts with existing zoning. Though he is not against the article, he would like to have additional information prior to a final vote.
- Additional Comments: Speaking again on Article Twenty-Nine, Lynn Welch (LW) re-stated her position that the two most important boards in Town should be appointed by the Selectmen: ZBA & Conservation Commission.
- Selectman Charles Takesian (CT) said he was not speaking for or against the article, but clarified that for this article, the Charter would need to be changed.

3. Approve Meeting Minutes from 09/27/2022

- DE noted there are two typos on the minutes: in 4G & 4H, Counsel is misspelled.
 - DE Moved to amend the Minutes, Second SR; Vote unanimous to amend
 - LC moved to approve the amended minutes, Second TT; Vote unanimous in favor

4. Vote on Warrant Articles for Fall Town Meeting

SR moved to vote on articles out of order, Second DE; Vote unanimous.

Votes will be taken on Articles Twenty-Nine, Thirty and Thirty-One, then start at Article One and vote sequentially.

- Article Twenty-Nine: DE moved to Not Recommend, Second LC; Vote unanimous
- Article Thirty: DE moved to Not Recommend, Second LC; Vote unanimous
- Article Thirty-One: DE moved to table until 10/24/2022 and make recommendation from the floor at Town Meeting, Second SR. Under discussion, LC asks for meeting to be scheduled at 6:30 PM before Fall Town Meeting; Vote unanimous to table until 10/24/22

- Article One: SR Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
- Article Two: SR Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
- Article Three: SR Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
- Article Four: SR Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
- Article Five: SR Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
- Article Six: SR Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
- Article Seven: SR Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
- Article Eight: SR Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
- Article Nine: SR Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
- Article Ten: SR Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
- Article Eleven: SR Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
- Article Twelve: SR Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
- Article Thirteen: SR Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous

- Article Fourteen: SR Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
- Article Fifteen: SR Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
- Article Sixteen: SR Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
- Article Seventeen: SR Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
- Article Eighteen: SR Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
- Article Nineteen: DH Moved to Recommend, Second LC; Vote unanimous
- Article Twenty: SR Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
 - NH: Article contains revised language per suggestion of Town Counsel to break out the dollar amounts per union contract rather than total amount as one transfer sum.
- Article Twenty-One: LC Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
 - NH: This is a new article since the draft warrant articles were distributed -- vote to transfer \$30,000 from Free Cash for the purposes of funding the upgrade of a part-time position in the Finance Department to full-time status through the end of the fiscal year.
 - SR Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
- Article Twenty-Two: LC Moved to Recommend, Second DE; Vote unanimous
 - NH: This is also a new article since the draft warrant articles were distributed -- vote to transfer \$57,000 from Free Cash for the purposes of funding a new Patrolman in the Police Department through the end of the fiscal year.
 - NH: Town's U.S. 2020 census numbers showed significant increase in population since 2010; rule of thumb is to have approximately two officers for every 1,000 residents, in order to keep up with the public safety needs of the Town. There are 17 officers now and he is recommending adding one new officer.
 - LC Moved to Recommend, Second LC; Vote unanimous
- Article Twenty-Three: SR Moved to Recommend, Second LC; Vote unanimous
- Article Twenty-Four: SR Moved to Recommend, Second LC; Vote unanimous
- Article Twenty-Five: SR Moved to Recommend, Second LC; Vote unanimous
- Article Twenty-Six: SR Moved to Recommend, Second LC; Vote unanimous
- Article Twenty-Seven: SR Moved to Recommend, Second LC; Vote unanimous
- Article Twenty-Eight: SR Moved to Recommend, Second LC; Vote unanimous

5. Other Business:

- a. All agreed to meet at 6:30 PM, 10/24/2022 prior to Fall Town Meeting.

6. Adjournment

Move: LC

Second: SR

Vote: Unanimous in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM

Respectfully submitted,

David Holscher, Clerk