

RCL 2013 VOTER PREPARATION

Warrant Articles

What voters need to know and understand
Updated from the January 30, 2013 presentation

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Table of what different parts of Government will cost you

		If your property is assessed for this amount, this is what your 2013 approximate cost will be. Taxrate of \$11.22/\$1,000 (2012)				
Budget Item	Amount	\$350,000	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,250,000
Town Operating Budget	\$ 8,680,627	\$1,733	\$2,476	\$3,714	\$4,952	\$6,190
Town Hall Space Needs	\$ 60,000	\$12	\$17	\$26	\$34	\$43
Old Police Station Research	\$ 9,800	\$2	\$3	\$4	\$6	\$7
Goss Farm Barn work	\$ 170,000	\$34	\$48	\$73	\$97	\$121
Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 100,000	\$20	\$29	\$43	\$57	\$71
Record Retention Strategy	\$ 25,000	\$5	\$7	\$11	\$14	\$18
Video Streaming Town	\$ 4,000	\$1	\$1	\$2	\$2	\$3
School Operating Budget	\$ 12,938,447	\$2,584	\$3,691	\$5,536	\$7,381	\$9,227
School Support Staff 2013-14	\$ 10,670	\$2	\$3	\$5	\$6	\$8
School Support Staff 2014-15 (not in 2013 total)	\$ 69,262	\$14	\$20	\$30	\$40	\$49
School Support Staff 2015-16 (not in 2013 total)	\$ 123,797	\$25	\$35	\$53	\$71	\$88
Video Streaming School	\$ 4,000	\$1	\$1	\$2	\$2	\$3
Town Total if all approved	\$ 22,002,544	\$ 4,432	\$ 6,331	\$ 9,497	\$ 12,663	\$ 15,828
Rockingham County	\$ 1,908,292	\$381	\$544	\$817	\$1,089	\$1,361
Total w/ Rockingham County	\$ 23,910,836	\$ 4,813	\$ 6,876	\$ 10,314	\$ 13,751	\$ 17,189
Not all homes are in the Rye Water District - some homes are served by Aquarion or Portsmouth Water.						
Rye Water Cap. Reserve Repairs	\$ 25,000	\$8	\$11	\$17	\$23	\$28
Rye Water Expendable Trust	\$ 15,000	\$5	\$7	\$10	\$14	\$17
Rye Water Cap. Reserve Equip. & Buildings	\$ 20,000	\$6	\$9	\$14	\$18	\$23
Rye Water Main Replacement (20 yrs @ 2.72%)	\$ 3,400,000	\$83	\$119	\$178	\$237	\$297

Planning Board Changes

Article 3 Amendment 1: Housekeeping to reflect that ZBA members will now be elected

Article 3 Amendment 2: Solar panels in Historic District

- Guidelines for installing Solar panels in the Historic District (includes Star Island) only

Article 3 Amendment 3: Establish a Rye Landfill Overlay District

- The State and other testing has found elevated levels of manganese
- Enables town to evaluate risks for any new wells in the overlay district

Article 3 Amendment 4: Demolition Review

- Reduces the age of a building to be considered by the Demolition Review committee from 65 years down to 50 years.
- Note the Demolition Committee has no authority to prevent any tear downs

Article 3 Amendment 5: Amend Definition of “structure” in the Zoning Ordinance

- Removes Fuel Tanks from this
- Removes Subsurface waste, Fences, Stonewalls and driveways as they are defined in other sections

Article 3 Amendment 6: Define “Storm water” Drain in Zoning ordinance

- We will now match the State definition, since Rye ordinance did not define what can be considered “Storm Water”

How did we get here?

- Town Departments need more office space, the town could use more or better meeting space, Town Hall electrical, IT, etc... all need work
- Many safety, cost, handicap access, and other drivers say something must be done

Step 1

- 2011 Town voted to spend \$40K to understand if it was even feasible to continue using the existing town hall
 - Warrant article also said to evaluate what are the space requirements and what “smart” things should we be doing
- Result was the AG Architects presentation
 - Evaluation of what space is needed
 - Proposed a possible building design, layout, etc....

One Step Back

- AG Report left key questions unanswered
- Public expressed a concern that the AG Design was too much
- Article 10 for \$135K next steps voted down
- Petitioned Article 27 calling for more planning was approved
 - Town Created the Town Hall Space Needs Committee

Open Questions addressed from the Space Needs Committee

The Great Room Should Stay: The Great Room is the old auditorium upstairs in the Town Hall. If restored it could:

- Provide additional much-needed meeting space for the town
- Create a large meeting space for town government activities
- Permit return of Town elections to this location
- Create a great public meeting room larger than the Library Room, smaller than the RJH Gym
- Be used for Rye Rec, Senior activities, theatre, music, social activities....

There are two sets of curvilinear stairs that should be maintained

What are we going to do with Rye Recreation?

- If we replace the Rye Rec. modulars would this replacement create office space for Rye Rec?
- Leaving Rye Rec out of the office space needs reduces the total space needs for Town Hall
- Safety Building and now a Town Hall investment continue to push out an investment in Rye Rec.

A Facilities Master plan and a Capital Improvement Financial Plan are needed

- Article 21 was to address the need for a financial plan, but this provision was removed at the Deliberative Meeting
- Article 4 includes the development of a Facilities Master Plan

Town needs a Record Retention Strategy and Plan

- Article 8 is to address this

Safety Building and How Much Space

What did we learn about using the Safety Building?

- There is lots of space available over the equipment bay -- would require adding a floor.
- It is not clear which Department(s) could be moved there.
- Idea of remodeling the Safety building and the Town Hall did not appear to provide sufficient cost savings and added complexity to the process
- Space Needs committee said any future requirements could be accommodated at the Safety Building.

How Much Space is Needed?

- First there are many variables that make significant impact to the estimated number of square feet needed
 - Storage space needs are unknown. The lack of a long-term plan or strategy was identified as an issue.
 - Circulation. This is the % of additional square feet needed for hallways and moving around a building
- AG Architect estimates are too high: 15,090 sq feet
- Committee is suggesting a range of 11,500 sq. feet \pm 1,000 sq. feet
- Citizens group is estimating a lower number between 8,500 and 9,500 sq. feet

Next Steps for the Town

Warrant Article 4 asks for \$60K to:

- Hire licensed architectural/engineering consultant to prepare 2 schematic designs (two building and single building options -- maximum 1/3 extension on single building)
- Determine refined programming needs, long-term recreational program needs.
- Consider what needs might be addressed by 1899 Trolley Barn (Old Police Station)
- Prepare Facilities Master Plan

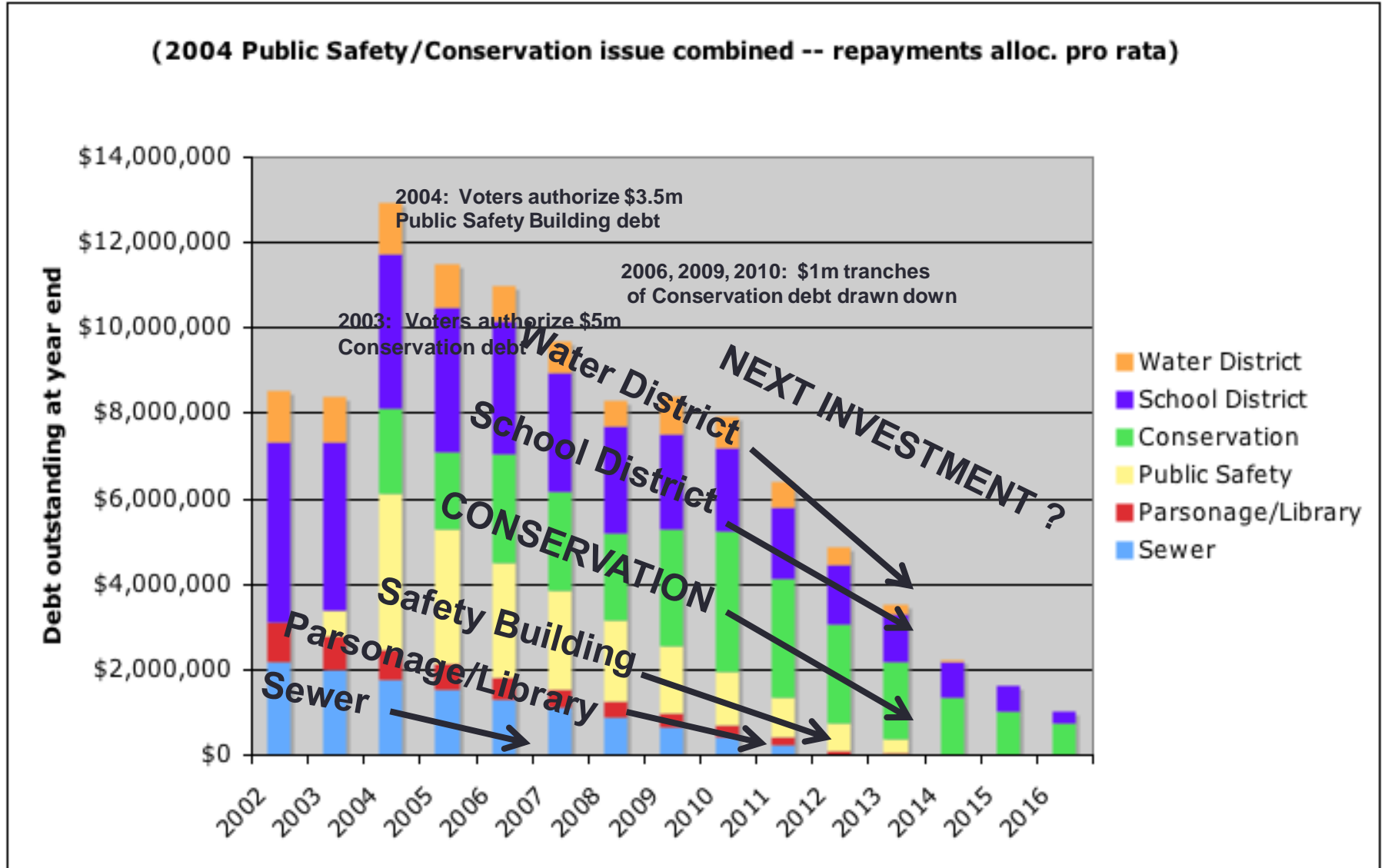
However:

- How is the town going to manage this \$60K investment?
- What can we expect the outcomes to be?
- Who or what group is going to oversee the process (architect selection, oversight of construction)?
- When and how will public input be obtained?
- What can be expected for the Police Station and Rye Recreation

Potential Schedule:

- 2013 Programming and Schematic Design
- 2014 Design Development and Construction Documents
- 2015 Start Construction

The spike in Town debt is subsiding, creating room for investment.
 However – these savings have been offsetting other cost increases



How much will Town Hall cost taxpayers?

Assume: 10 year financing at 3%

Tax impact lasts for 10 years, slowly declines as principal is repaid

If your assessed value is:	If the town invested this much in a new Town Hall, this is about what you would pay for 10 years		
	<u>\$2 million</u>	<u>\$3 million</u>	<u>\$4 million</u>
\$500K house	\$74	\$111	\$148
\$750K house	\$111	\$167	\$222
\$1 million house	\$148	\$222	\$296

5: Old Police Station/Trolley Barn 8: Records Retention

Article 5: Determine what can be done with the Old Police Station?

- Abandoned when we built the Safety building. Some current storage use.
- .228 acres means it does not have much potential for commercial or private resale
- A definitive understanding of the mold and possible environmental risks is needed
- Potential options are:
 - Locate some town activities there
 - Create consolidated storage facility
 - Records and other town assets
 - Part of the Town Hall Space Needs equation (approx. 100 yards away)

Article 8: Records Retention Plan

- Understanding the options to meet the Records Retention requirements for all town departments is lacking
- Record Retention strategy will impact the space and design of a any Town Hall investment

Evaluate Structural Resources



- March/April 2011 - Barn Assessment completed - with assistance from the NH Preservation Alliance
- April 2011 - NH DHR Conservation License Plate request for restoration of underpinnings, unfunded
- May 2011 - NH DHR listed the Goss Barn in the NH State Register of Historic Places
- Summer 2011 - Water line installed on site, adjacent to barn & 200' toward western field
- Fall 2011 – LCHIP application for Barn Restoration, unfunded

Goss Barn- What Has Been Completed & What is Needed to be Usable & Safe



2012 - In-kind electrical hook up provided by local electrician

2012 - In-kind rehabilitation of wagon found underneath barn

2012 - Additional related projects (well testing; heritage garden) and workshops before & after restoration

2011/2012 – Volunteers have spent hundreds of hours trying to raise funds to restore Goss Barn, from Chicken Coop Tour Fundraiser, Barn Dinner with Farmer’s Market, to chopping wood for sale. Several pleas in Town Newsletter for donations resulted in over \$8,000 in donations.

All good for visibility, but restoration itself cannot be completed in a piecemeal manner.



\$170K Restoration Investment

Full Restoration will allow continued workshops and presentations w/NH Preservation Alliance & NHDHR, Rye Historical Society, Rye Heritage Commission, etc.

Full Restoration will allow outreach and educational opportunities & use of site through ongoing school use, community gardens, and educational workshops.

Full restoration will allow a farmer to utilize barn for agricultural uses, and to assist with sustainable farming practices & education/outreach



2013 Ongoing partnerships with RCCD & Natural Resource Conservation Service to complete required permits for some conservation practices and ongoing management. Rye DPW will assist with farm road culvert replacement to reduce costs.

Barn preservationist installed metal roof in Fall of 2012 & aims to continue with foundation work in Spring of 2013. Rye Conservation Commission will work with town staff and report progress to Board of Selectmen & NH Division of Historical Resources.

2012 - Conservation Commission received small conditional grant from NH Division of Historical Resources for 2013. Public funds are rare for rehabilitation of historic structures.

Additional Town Warrant Articles

Article 7: Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

- There are \$1 million in assets, so if all have a 10 year life, then we should be funding \$100K a year.
- Capital Reserve Fund balance was \$141,755 at the end of 2011. Fund allows money to be held at the end of the fiscal year.
- Is there a plan to buy anything this year? No. Six wheel dump truck was delayed.
- Can these assets last more than 10 years? Why is \$100K the right number?

Article 9: \$4K for streaming/archiving BOS, ZBA and Planning Board mtgs.

- Simple system to be used until Town Hall Space needs are addressed
- Another \$4K may be needed for the School System

Article 11: Discontinue and quitclaim of Old Elwyn Rd. roadbed

- Fulfills an obligation made during the building of the roundabout at Foyes' Corner

Article 12: Relocation of Class VI Highway, Old Ferry Landing Road, near Foyes' Corner

- Minor relocation of old highway to accommodate subdivision of Cavaretta property. Road once went to ferry going to New Castle. Most of road now covered by Wentworth golf club.

Article 13: Approve Cutting down trees at Rye Rec. for parking

Single File Only and Controlling Beach Activities

Article 14: Expands Skateboarding and Roller Skating ordinance to add provisions for bicycles, pedestrians and runners.

- This makes permanent the changes the Selectman approved last Summer.
- Requires that all activities be “single file” and as close to the shoulder as possible
- Is this the best way to address this safety concern?

Article 15: Selectmen Regulation of Beach Activities

- Deliberative Meeting had this changed to a study to be completed, not an ordinance
- Requires Selectmen approval of private, commercial or non-profit activity business or event, including:
 - Summer Camp activities
 - Surf Camps
 - Races
 - Triathlons
 - Fundraisers
 - Lessons and/or rental activities such as, surfing, paddle boarding, kayaking, sailing, kite-surfing, snorkeling or diving on any town beach
- Enables the Selectmen to place conditions on their approval

Additional Town Warrant Articles

Article 16: Jenness Beach parking changes – Richard Rd., Brown’s Court & Power Ave.

- The warrant article states that no parking has been enforced in these locations for many years and the amendment is to make the ordinance consistent with current practice of No Parking.

Article 17: Recording of Votes on the Warrant Articles

- New State Law allows for the Town to ask for the vote count to be stated in the Warrant. Example: the Budget Committee recommends this article by a 3 to 2 vote.
- Warrant article applies to governing body (i.e. Selectmen) and Budget Committee votes.

Article 18: Solar Energy Tax Credit

- Increases the system value subject to the exemption from \$15K to \$35K
- Clarifies that these systems are for electricity and hot water for immediate use. This assures that this does not apply if the system is used for resale activity.

Article 19: Posting of Agendas

- Changed at the Deliberative meeting to allow the Selectman “to be considered”
- Residents were surprised by several public meetings, the intent is to improve the process
- Also helps by assuring there are cross links between different public websites

Petitioned Warrant Articles

Article 20: Conflict of Interest change

- Changed at the Deliberative meeting to allow people to be exempt for one year
- Amends article adopted last year. Wording has been added to match the State definition.
- Also requires tabulation of persons required to sign and whether they have signed. This issue arose when a Town employee was refusing to sign the policy agreement.

Article 21: Capital Improvement Financial Planning

- Was amended so that the only new requirements are a public hearing and a table showing the impact on taxes. The key provisions of this article were removed at the Deliberative meeting, the intent was to avoid what is happening with the Water main replacement investment.
- CIP has now been completed each of the past 3 years which is a big improvement over prior years
- The Town is not communicating what the financial plan is and a potential strategy for smoothly funding these projects without causing a spike in tax rates
- There could also be more public discussion on the priorities and the long term strategy for future capital investment.

Article 22: Reasonableness of New Assessments

- Requires the Selectmen to study the property assessments and whether they are fair to all taxpayers. Proximity to the ocean may not have been taken into proper account, and some swings in assessments may not jibe with common sense, according to some taxpayers.
- Report will conclude whether a reassessment should be done or not.

School Articles

Article 1: Budget of \$12.9 million

- A group of parents is concerned about the jump in class size for the 4th Grade class given that the total students are very close to the School Board's guideline for adding an additional class.

Article 2: Collective Bargaining Agreement for Support Staff

- \$10.6K increase to the budget, and the agreement itself, must be approved by voters.
- Over \$50K increase in salaries and benefits in each of the next two years.
- Analysis of the current and new contract would be helpful

Article 4: Retention of excess funds at year end for emergencies

- New State law allows voters to approve retention of up to 2.5% of taxes.
- Currently, the School Board has been required to return unutilized funds to the taxpayers.

Article 5: \$4K for Streaming Video

- Intent is to mimic what the Town is planning to do
- This article includes an operational date, so it is available for the start of School
- Budget Committee did not approve, even though it had already approved the same amount for video streaming at Town Hall

Article 6: Recorded Budget votes by School Board and Budget Committee

- Mimics Town Article 17, so it also applies to the School Board

This Presentation

Was created by the Rye Civic League to help taxpayers be prepared for the deliberative town meeting

- This has now been updated after the Deliberative Town Meeting and posted.

The Rye Civic League publishes the monthly Rye Civic News. You can add yourself to the Rye Civic News at www.ryecivicleague.org