

SUMMARY OF RYE TOWN DELIBERATIVE SESSION

February 2, 2019

Provided by the Rye Civic League

Note: The elapsed times are relative to the starts of the respective videos.

Overall summary

1. The Town Hall teardown/rebuild article was amended to eliminate mention of a specific architect.
2. The article prohibiting expenditures on Town Hall until there has been a warrant article passed was turned on its head.
3. Attempts to amend the \$992,000 article for a pumper/ladder truck to first look at collaboration with surrounding towns and to decrease the lease amount by increased utilization of reserves failed.
4. The article to establish a committee to look into cell phone infrastructure survived without amendment, except for the deletion of the last sentence, which might have prevented the town with proceeding with a cell tower on Port Way until completion of the committee's work.
5. The dog-related articles survived relatively unscathed.
6. Several beach-related articles were amended but with their basic goals largely intact.

Part One

Video link: <https://vimeo.com/315081039>

(19:03 elapsed) **Articles 1-5.** Elections and Zoning Amendments. There was no discussion or amendments. Articles 3-5 were placed on the ballot as written.

(20:02 elapsed) **Article 6 Town Hall teardown/rebuild \$3,500,000.** Amended to remove reference to specific architect and to add an estimate of interest cost over the 30 year life of the bond. The article was placed on the ballot as amended.

(71:50 elapsed) **Article 31 Town Hall expenditure prohibition.** Prior language deleted and amended to:

“[t]o see if the town will vote to require the Selectmen to develop a plan to renovate the Town Hall to better accommodate the staff office needs, to make the Town Hall ADA compliant and to keep the Town Hall located on its historic site in the center of Rye.”

The article was placed on the ballot as amended.

(99:12 elapsed) **Article 7 Salt Shed \$700,000.** There was discussion about the high cost, the availability of salt four miles away, and the potential cost of a substitute site. There were no amendments. The article was placed on the ballot as written.

(112:05 elapsed) **Article 8 Pumper/ladder truck \$992,000.** Amendments to require a plan developed with nearby communities and to withdraw more from the reserves to reduce the amount of lease financing were defeated. The article was placed on the ballot as written.

(155:15 elapsed) **Article 9 Operating Budget \$9,718,146.** A motion to reduce the operating budget by \$36,000, to reflect limiting a budgeted building and grounds employee at 32 hours a week without benefits rather than 40 hours a week with benefits failed to pass. The article was placed on the ballot as written.

Part Two

Video link: <https://vimeo.com/315130987>

(0:18 elapsed) **Article 10 Shoals View Paving \$200,000.** An attempt to amend the article to apply to the Shoals View west of Parsons Rd. as well as east of Parson Rd. was disallowed as introducing a new subject matter not noticed in the warrant. The article was placed on the ballot as written.

(8:49 elapsed) **Article 11 Highway Equipment Capital Reserve \$100,000.** There was no discussion by the public and the article was placed on the ballot as written.

(11:34 elapsed) **Article 12 Fire and Ambulance Vehicle Reserve \$100,000.** There was no discussion by the public and the article was placed on the ballot as written.

(13:05 elapsed) **Article 13 Town Employees Accumulated Leave Fund \$50,000.** There was no discussion by the public and the article was placed on the ballot as written.

(14:40 elapsed) **Article 14 Municipal Building Maintenance Expendable Trust \$35,000.** There was no discussion by the public and the article was placed on the ballot as written.

(16:13 elapsed) **Article 15 discontinue Ambulance Capital Reserve.** There was no discussion by the public and the article was placed on the ballot as written.

(17:24 elapsed) **Article 16 apply Ambulance Capital Reserve funds to Fire and Ambulance Vehicle Capital Reserve \$11,714.** There was no discussion by the public and the article was placed on the ballot as written.

(18:32 elapsed) **Article 17 Library Employees Accumulated Leave Fund \$10,000.** There was no discussion by the public and the article was placed on the ballot as written.

(20:05 elapsed) **Article 18 Library Building Maintenance Expendable Trust \$5000.** There was no discussion by the public and the article was placed on the ballot as written.

(21:29 elapsed) **Article 19 Acceptance of Stoneleigh Preserve Roads.** There was an amendment offered to change the name of one of the roads, but the motion was ruled out of order. The article was placed on the ballot as written.

(30:48 elapsed) **Article 20 Allow conservation acquisitions outside of Rye.** There was discussion about the ability to sunset the provision after the West Rd. acquisition which straddles the North Hampton town line. The Conservation Commission Chairman would not commit to a new article to rescind the provision after the acquisition. The article was placed on the ballot as written.

(40:25 elapsed) **Article 21 Ratify lease for Port Way cell tower site.** There were questions about whether additional revenues from co-location would bring the \$24,000 annual lease revenues up to the \$50,000 received from the Grove Rd. lease and whether the tower was required to be removed at the end of the lease. The article was placed on the ballot as written.

(48:38 elapsed) **Article 22 Retain the parcel taken for taxes so it may be used for the Port Way cell tower.** The date of the tax deed was amended to 2011. There was a motion that the 10,000 square feet for the tower be conveyed to the Conservation Commission once it is no longer needed for the cell tower, but that was withdrawn once it was ascertained that this would occur automatically. The article was placed on the ballot as amended.

(57:36 elapsed) **Article 23 Approve road layout to access Port Way cell tower site.** There was no discussion by the public and the article was placed on the ballot as written.

(60:36 elapsed) **Article 24 Pay for the above road layout \$4000.** There was no discussion by the public and the article was placed on the ballot as written.

(62:18 elapsed) **Article 30 Establish committee to identify cell phone infrastructure and site location needs.** An amendment removed the last sentence which it was argued might negate the work that had already been done and the negotiations with Verizon, which was the intent of that sentence. The article was placed on the ballot as amended.

(76:57 elapsed) **Article 25 Allow expansion of Portsmouth sewer into Rye.** There was no discussion by the public and the article was placed on the ballot as written.

(82:55 elapsed) **Article 27 Amended definition of dogs under control.** An amendment to state that dogs not under control should be leashed passed. A second amendment to strike paragraph 6b and the first part of 6c carried 39-33. A third amendment to strike the entire article and turn it into having a committee study the issue failed. There was then a motion to reconsider the second amendment which failed. The article was placed on the ballot as amended.

(126:19 elapsed) **Article 26 Leashing of dogs on beach 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday.** The article was amended by a vote of 40-32 to prohibit dogs completely between these hours. The article was placed on the ballot as amended.

(139:08 elapsed) **Article 28 Dog sight and sound tag program.** Police Chief Kevin Walsh made a video presentation showing Boulder, Colorado's implementation of this program. Residents then discussed problems with dogs in the Town Forest. An amendment to eliminate all of the penalties except a maximum fine of \$100 failed. The article was placed on the ballot as written.

Part Three

Video link: <https://vimeo.com/315127982>

(0:00 elapsed) **Article 29 Allow rollerblading.** There was no discussion by the public and the article was placed on the ballot as written.

(2:04 elapsed) **Article 32 Clean fill standards.** A concern was expressed by a contractor regarding the effort required to monitor the issue. Selectman Roman expressed concern that this might be building amendment that must first go through the Planning Board. The article was amended to turn the issue over to the Planning Board for study. The article was placed on the ballot as amended.

(18:48 elapsed) **Article 33 Increased parking fines.** The article was amended to provide for a maximum \$100 fine in resident parking areas and a \$50 fine in no parking areas, but with the towing provisions removed. The article was placed on the ballot as amended.

(36:49 elapsed) **Article 34 Make Beach Committee a standing committee.** The article was amended to limit the responsibilities of the committee to advice, and to direct the Selectmen to develop a plan for making the Beach Committee a standing committee in 2020. The article was placed on the ballot as amended.

(55:23 elapsed) **Article 35 prohibition of Porta Potties at Sawyers Beach.** There was no discussion by the public and the article was placed on the ballot as written.

(59:08 elapsed) **Article 36 prohibition of RVs and Campers on Route 1A.** An amendment was passed to turn the matter into an investigation by the Selectmen through the state Department of Transportation. The article was placed on the ballot as amended.

(67:25 elapsed) **Article 37 Sale of surplus town equipment at auction.** There was no discussion by the public and the article was placed on the ballot as written.

(68:25 elapsed) **Article 38 Other business.** The Moderator proposed a resolution regarding the Patriots Super Bowl game the next day, but did not call for a vote. The meeting was then adjourned.