April 29th, 2019

Open Warrant Meeting

**Present:** Patricia-Lee Achorn, Daniel Lewenberg, Gordon Gladstone, Arnold Cohen, Ira Miller, Anja Bernier, Anil Ramoju, Hanna Switlekowski, Charles Goodman and Edward Philips

**Absent:** William Brack

**Open Warrant Meeting**

Peg Argiumbau of 300 East Street shared concerns about Article 21.

* Unfair to do this to homeowners.
* There is a major ground water problem that should not be imposed on homeowners.
* Suggested the Planning Board or the Board of Health do a better job of mapping ground water.
* Suggested other means such as caution signs.

Finance Committee members responded to the citizen’s claims.

* Daniel Lewenberg stated that main concern is icing of sidewalks in the winter.
* Gordon Gladstone stated that this will finally give the DPW authority to take action.
* Anja Bernier pointed out the issue near Cottage Street school and the safety risks for children having to walk in traffic due to water.

Allen Laurie of 15 Lakeview Street shared an amendment to Article 17.

* Amendment deals with the telephone switching station behind the existing library.
* Asked that our Board of Selectman and Town Administrator negotiate with Verizon to mitigate the potential factors.
* This is an opportunity for Verizon to contribute to either naming rights of the new library.
* It will offset financial costs of the new project, including interest to reduce borrowing.
* Suggested naming the basketball court in owner of Bruce Pearl, a coach who attended Sharon’s schools.

Finance Committee members responded to the citizen’s claims.

* Anja Bernier stated that the town needs to approve the naming of anything in town, so we cannot guarantee it to Verizon. Based on her experience, the chances of Verizon agreeing to this, if possible are unlikely too. She also questioned how this will reduce costs.
* Arnold Cohen stated that he is not sure that this amendment is proper to the article.
* Gordon Gladstone stated that Lee Ann has approached Verizon twice, once with an unwillingness for sale and the second time Verizon asked for $9 million. This could derail a positive vote at town meeting.
* Ira Miller stated that he does not see a connection to Verizon, and he agreed with Gordon.
* Charles Goodman stated that he does not see Verizon doing anything favorably for the town and that the amendment is unnecessary.

Allen Laurie responded with the following points.

* He is not in favor of spending $9 million for Verizon building due to economic loss.
* Opportunity to move to a 2-tiered tax system with telecommunication companies.

**MOTION:** by Anja Bernier **SECONDED:** by Ira Miller **VOTED:** 10-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.