

Montague Energy Meeting, 14 April 2015

Present: Chris Mason, Sally Pick, Jeff Singleton, Rich Adams, Pam Hanold  
Guests : Jim Hogan, David Jensen

Sheffield boiler and windows: Jim reported that the Town spent a lot of money last year replacing the boiler (keeping the 35 year old burner) for ca. \$90,000. By not replacing the burner, we were stuck with steam. Engineering study -- best option to transfer to hot water system throughout for about \$450,000. It was originally a hot water system which got changed to steam, so not as efficient a unit. One runs burners on natural gas usually because it is cleaner for the burners. Oil is a more efficient fuel for the production of steam. Jim -- would like to see the burners and boilers replaced for next year which is the minimum addressing of the issue in the warrant.

Jim - could get through another year with one new burner -- ca. \$25,000 for the burner + \$10,000 for repairs for a total \$35,000 in the motion.  
The new boiler is steam and is covering the whole building.

J - upgrading lights to LED. Has an EverSource grant of \$10,000 for that in auditorium.

Committee discussion: The committee prefers a long-term assessment and planning for the system with what ever short-term adjustments are necessary, headed to a comprehensive, efficient system long term.

Re: boiler article. Discussion on how we could change article. Motion to amend the article to include \$35,000 for burner and repairs plus \$20,000 for a full energy audit of the buildings including systems.

Motion, voted and passed unanimously: " That we communicate to the relevant committees and people that we support reducing the \$145,000 boiler warrant article to \$55,000 to cover \$35,000 for a new burner and boiler repair and \$20,000 for an energy audit of the Sheffield School / Admin Complex in order to identify an energy efficient cost effective alternative to the current system. "

Chris will communicate with the school, Frank, CIC, FinCom, and Selectboard.

Minutes of the March 31st were approved, subject to amendments.

Next meeting -- 21 April

Be prepared to discuss the pipeline article on the warrant: It's Important to clarify our collective opinions so we can give a nuanced statement to Town Meeting if we so decide. We will meet the 28th if necessary.