



State. Dave Baczewski made a motion to approve the FY'24 Annual Financial Plan as presented, seconded by Lee McClenny. Motion passed: 2-0.

### **GRADER**

John advised that the new grader is on its way and should be ready for delivery by the end of April after it is fitted with bumpers, etc. A discussion ensued on how to pay for the grader because a loan payment was not budgeted in the FY'24 budget. Greg will research interest rates for a loan to present at their next meeting. John inquired about using ARPA funds to purchase a roller as discussed last fall. The Board will discuss this at their April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **FY'23 HIGHWAY BUDGET STATUS REPORT**

Greg Barrows, Treasurer, reviewed the highway budget status report. Greg noted that the ARPA funds approved by the Board for diesel fuel have been transferred to highway revenue. Overall, the highway budget looks good and is where Greg would expect it to be.

### **CSWD FY'24 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Sarah Reeves from CSWD (Chittenden Solid Waste District) presented CSWD's FY'24 proposed budget. CSWD has budgeted in increase of approximately \$1.15 million for expenses and \$1.37 million in revenue. The Solid Waste Management fee will remain at \$27/ton however tipping fees for the Materials Recycling Facility and the Organics Diversion Facility are increasing, as well as bag prices at Drop Off Centers. Major renovations are planned for the Milton Drop Off Center. CSWD continues to work on post closure tasks from closing the landfill. Lee thanked Sarah for the presentation. Dave Baczewski made a motion to approve the CSWD FY'24 Budget as briefed, seconded by Lee McClenny. Motion passed: 2-0.

### **REQUEST TO DRAFT AN ORDINANCE REGARDING PARKING ON THE COMMON**

Lori Johnson advised that the Common Committee is requesting the Selectboard's permission to work with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) to draft a Parking Ordinance or some other document for the Town Common area. The document would lay out a process for a community discussion and a vote before any future changes to the Common could be made, with increased parking development being their main concern. Lori reached out to VLCT however they advised she needs authorization from the Selectboard.

Dave believes the Common Committee's concerns go beyond a parking ordinance which would have items in it such as hours and rules/regulations, but rather a way to secure and preserve the green space known as the Common. Lori confirmed that the Committee's desire goes beyond parking. Barb Peck encouraged the Board to authorize the Common Committee to interact with VLCT.

Heather Armata asked if the Town Common Committee should be following the Open Meeting Law. She thinks it would be beneficial for the community to know what the Committee is doing by seeing agendas and minutes. Lori did not realize the Committee was subject to the Open Meeting Law but will work with Nanette on the logistics.

Lee doesn't have a problem with the Common Committee investigating what is possible and advising VLCT the Committee is operating under the Selectboard's permission. In his personal capacity he won't undertake any motions or actions regarding the Common until something is figured out.

Louise Jensen feels an ordinance is not necessary and that the Committee's fear of development on the Common is unfounded. She pointed out that people have been parking around the common and along Common Road for many years to attend events. She wondered where people will park if parking is restricted. Louise stated that a small town should not adopt an ordinance because of past mistakes or fear of future mistakes or development. Lori explained that the point is not to restrict people from using the Town Common or Common Road but about restricting the development of a parking lot on the green space.

Dave Baczewski made a motion to authorize the Common Committee and the Town Administrator on behalf of the Westford Selectboard to utilize VLCT as a resource to investigate any potential policy, legislation, or democratic options to preserve the green space known as the Town Common, seconded by Lee McClenny. Motion passed: 2-0.

### **RECREATION COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTMENT**

The Recreation Committee recommended Elizabeth Ploof for a vacancy on the Recreation Committee. Lee McClenny made a motion to appoint Elizabeth Ploof as a member of the Recreation Committee, seconded by Dave Baczewski. Motion passed: 2-0.

### **ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF OFFICES WITH TERMS THAT EXPIRE MARCH 2023**

Nanette provide the Selectboard with a list of offices with terms that expire in March 2023. Lee McClenny made a motion to appoint the following:

Zoning Administrator (3-year term)	Harmony Cism
Fence Viewers	Scot Phillips, Barb Peck
Inspector of Wood & Lumber/Weigher of Coal	Kyle Hobart
Land Agent	Benjamin Stark
Town Agent	Willis Breen
Town Grand Juror	Willis Breen
Tree Warden	Owen Jacobs
Development Review Board (3-year term)	Bill Cleary
	Jesse Lebreque
	Dennis Angiono
Planning Commission (5-year term)	Maureen Reilly
Conservation Commission (4-year term)	Christopher Cunningham
Recreation Committee (3-year term)	Lori Miller
	Deanna Norton

The motion was seconded by Dave Baczewski. Motion passed: 2-0.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Nanette emailed a timeline of deadlines, such as posting the warning, petition for reconsideration, etc., regarding a bond vote for the community wastewater system. She provided two scenarios based on voting in November 2023 and March 2024. She noted voting could also occur with the school vote in April 2024. This information was suggested by Vicky Ross at a previous meeting as part of a critical path document of the steps that must be completed to get to a bond vote.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Lee gave a brief report on a meeting between Essex Rescue and town representatives from five communities it serves. The communities recognize the important and critical service Essex Rescue provides and would like to do what they can to ensure Essex Rescue remains stable, secure, and successful in its mission. The group has been discussing whether municipalities should have voting rights on the Essex Rescue Board, if there should be a written statement of what services will be provided in exchange for the Town's contribution, how towns will be charged, etc. The next step is for the municipalities to meet to determine common ground on how to handle concerns such as rising costs due to shortage of staff and a rise in demand. Unfortunately, Essex Rescue is not the only rescue service that is facing demographic changes. In the short term, we do what we can monetarily to keep Essex Rescue going, but long term this struggle will continue unless a proactive, holistic approach is taken.

### **UPDATE ON INVESTING TOWN FUNDS IN CDS**

Greg Barrows, Treasurer, advised that the funds the Selectboard asked to be invested in CDs has been done and the interest rates are around 5%. He distributed a memo providing information on the four CDs. The interest that will be earned on the four CD's is approximately \$8,200. Upon maturity, the interest will be remitted to the Town and placed in an account that has been created in the General Ledger. The principal of the CDs will roll over; a CD will mature every three months.

### **FY'23 GENERAL FUND BUDGET STATUS REPORT**

Greg reviewed the FY'23 General Fund Budget status report. It was noted that the Sheriff's Office has used up their budget for the fiscal year. Lee would like to research traffic enforcement coverage. He's concerned that the areas the Town wants prioritized are not being patrolled as aggressively as the Town would like.

### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND PAYROLL WARRANTS.**

Greg Barrows, Treasurer, reviewed the Accounts Payable and Payroll warrants. The Board members signed the warrants.

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee McClenny, Chair  
Selectboard

Callie Hamdy  
Minute Clerk

**GUEST LIST**

Lori Johnson  
Louise Jensen  
Maureen Wilcox  
Erin Panattu  
Ben Bornstein  
Barb Peck  
Heather Armata  
Elise Certa (CSWD)  
Basil Panattu  
Dave Lavallee  
Andy Fulton  
Sarah Reeves (CSWD)  
Elizabeth Ploof

**TOWN OF WESTFORD HIGHWAY DEPT.**  
**ROAD SCHEDULE**  
**March 3, 2023 – March 23, 2023**

Work to be done

- Plow, sand, and salt if needed.
- Truck maintenance.
- Take the plows off.
- Put the summer tires on.
- Haul in road gravel.

Work completed

- Plowed, sanded, and salted several times.
- Graded several roads.
- Patched potholes on several roads.
- Maintenance on the trucks.
- Installed a new hydraulic tank on the 2014 Western Star.
- Had brake work done on the 2017 Western Star.
- Hauled in road gravel.

Approved at the 3/23/23 Selectboard Meeting.