#### SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING January 22, 2024 Draft Minutes

Present: Bill Cleary Lee McClenny Dave Baczewski Sean Cushing Holly Delisle Callie Hamdy Greg Barrows

Guests: Dick Lavallee, Tess Lavallee, Bob Bancroft, Ben Bornstein, Lori Johnson, Bree Drapa, Martha Heath, Vicky Ross, Deb Jorschick

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom.

### CHANGES TO AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

### **BUDGET PRESENTATION**

The Board gave their budget presentation. The board is proposing to inject \$50,000 from the General Fund against the amount to be raised by taxes to bring the tax rate down. The projected tax rate would be 0.7154. The budget as presented is unbalanced due to the application of funds from the General Fund.

Bree Drapa was present. She noted the Library was given \$4,000 of ARPA money in 2024 for building and maintenance expenses. She did not know if it was worth noting that was a \$4,000 increase from what they were given by the town last year.

Martha Heath asked why there was such a large decrease in the Town Planner budget. Lee explained they had a full time planner who resigned, and we have not yet permanently replaced her. We currently have a part time contractor, and the expenses are less than if we had somebody full time. The Selectboard believes that they will have to hire somebody full-time or part-time to occupy that position in the future.

Building Permits revenue was down \$10,000. Lee thinks we need to ask ourselves what is driving this. While it is not a big revenue source, growing the grand list is important. The board discussed the Fire Department Tanker Truck bond vote which would have its own, separate increase on the 2026 budget and tax rate if passed. Bree appreciated the change from presenting percentage of change to dollar amounts of change in the budget presentation. This clarifies the changes. Bob Bancroft complimented the board's work. Vicky asked if the document will be available to view. It will be posted on the town website.

### **REVIEW TOWN MEETING WARNING**

Holly had the draft of the town meeting warning available for review. This was rolled over to the meeting on January 25, 2024

## ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Selectboard Meeting January 22, 2024 Page 2

Lee McClenny, Chair Selectboard

Callie Hamdy Minute Clerk

ADOPTED THIS 8th TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024.

## WESTFORD SELECTBOARD

90 ee McClenny, Chair

David Baczewski

William Cleary

Selectboard Meeting January 22, 2024 Page 3

ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2023.

# WESTFORD SELECTBOARD

Lee McClenny, Chair

David Baczewski

William Cleary