

Winchester, NH Budget Committee Meeting Minutes for Thursday January 14, 2021

The meeting was held at Winchester Town Hall.

Members Present: Chester Lapointe- Chair, Tiffany Melanson (by phone), Theresa Sepe, Ben Kilanski (Selectman Representative) Lindseigh Picard (School Board Representative)

School Board Members Present: Tina Perkins, Todd Kilanski

School Administration Present: Dr. Ken Dassau.

Town Personnel Present: Karey Miner, Amy Bond

Chester opened the meeting at 5:30PM.

Chester takes a roll call. All budget committee members are present.

Ben made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 5th meeting. Theresa seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

Chester explained that the committee was to review the petitioned warrant articles and then start the hearing for the town and school budgets at 6PM.

Theresa made a motion to recommend the following petitioned warrant articles. #18, #19, #20, #21, #22 and #23 as written, Lindseigh seconded the motion.

Theresa explained it was her opinion that petition warrant articles should go forward to the warrant. Ben would like to point out that two of the articles in the motion were not recommended by the selectmen.

Motion passes 5-0.

Chester asked if anyone in the audience would like to explain their petitioned warrant articles.

Missy Calderwood from ACCESS described how their group had approached this year with restrictions in place for the pandemic. ACCESS has made activity boxes available for its students. They actively interact with the community through their Facebook Page.

Ben stated how pleased the select board is with the ACCESS and ELMM programs.

Frank Linnenbringer spoke and represented the ELMM board. Some of their accomplishments this year included finalizing the playground project. \$25,000 was raised and the playground was constructed this summer. The ELMM now has a nine-hole Frisbee disc golf course. The course was constructed using a grant. The ELMM had skills classes for children this summer and soccer this fall. Frank was confident that baseball would happen in the spring.

Ben made a motion to recommend petition warrant articles #24, #25 and #26 as written. Lindseigh seconded the motion.

Theresa explained the background on each of the petitioned warrant articles that addressed veteran tax credits. Chester voiced his support for each of the articles. Motion passes 4-0-1. (Theresa abstains)

Chester explained some corrections that had to be noted regarding the town budget.

The Southwest Regional Planning Commission was listed as \$500 in the budget. It should read \$5000. Total was incorrect for the total amount.

Chester made a motion to revisit the Operating budget for the town. Theresa seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Lindseigh made a motion to approve the new town operating budget total of \$3,675,097. Theresa seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Chester made a motion to revisit the warrant article that asks for the selectman to purchase the loader for the highway department. Theresa seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Ben made a motion to approve the correct amount for the loader. \$129,785, to be paid in five annual principal and interest payments of \$27,640. To purchase a 2021 John Deere 544P Wheel Loader. Lindseigh seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

The budget committee took a three-minute recess.

Ben made a motion open the hearing for the town and school. Lindseigh seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chester discussed the town budget and the default budget amount. He opened the floor to discussion.

Todd Kilanski asked members to speak into the microphones so everyone in the room could hear.

There were no other comments.

Chester discussed the school budget and the default budget amount. He opened the floor to discussion.

There were no comments.

Ben made a motion to close the hearing. Theresa seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Ben made a motion to move Article #2 for the town and Article #2 for the school to the warrant. Lindseigh seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Lindseigh was pleased to see how everyone worked together during the budget season.

Lindseigh mentioned that the school board had come to an agreement with the Winchester Teachers Association on a 2 year contract. If passed, teachers would see a 1-3% increase in pay.

Lindseigh made a motion to recommend article #3 for the school for the WTA contract. Ben seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Lindseigh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ben seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25PM.