

Town of Washington Select Board Meeting
3/11/2024 7:00 – 9:00 PM Washington Town Hall

1. K. Lew called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Attending for the Select Board were K. Lew, D. Ellis, and Mike Case. After leading the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance, K. Lew made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from 2/26/24. M. Case seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Attendants: Sean Curran, Jodi Hostetter, Steve Deloye, Debra Megaw, Tom and Amy Johnson, Dave Drugmand, Sherri Thomas, Ben Gelb and Linda Levernoch. Dick Spencer attended remotely. Don Gagnon joined the meeting remotely. Tykesha Nothe attended to take the meeting minutes.

3. Approval of warrants: The IT bill was charged against website and digital communication by mistake. The Board agreed to redirect the expense to Town Hall Equipment and Support. There was discussion with the Finance Committee and T. Johnson about redirecting the shop boiler bill from ARPA to the Highway Expenses account. K. Lew made a motion to redirect the expense out of ARPA to the Highway Operating Expense, allowing the account to go into a temporary deficit until later in the year. D. Ellis seconded. The Finance Committee agreed that the deficit to the Highway Operating account will be covered.

4. Public Comment period: no public comment

5. Administrative assistance for Planning Board minutes: D. Gagnon asked if T. Nothe could help get the Planning Board minutes up to date. T. Nothe agreed to help. The Select Board agreed to pay up to 15 hours. T. Nothe will email D. Gagnon this week. K. Lew made a motion to approve the use of the administrative assistant to the Select Board to help the Planning Board get caught up with minutes. M. Case seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Letter of Appreciation to Smitty Pignatelli: K. Lew made a motion to sign the Letter of Appreciation to Smitty Pignatelli. M. Case seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Vote to adopt Financial Policies & Procedures: K. Lew made a motion to approve the set of Financial Policies and Procedures as provided by the Finance Committee for approval. D. Ellis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Board of Health update and discussion: S. Deloye reported the BOH has not received any additional information in regards to the receivership case. The BOH is in the process of determining whether or not a property on Washington Mountain Road is a historic building. The BOH is also looking into a property that is for sale on Simmons Road that currently has an order of conditions against it. K. Lew encouraged S. Deloye to seek support from S. Curran. The BOH is also creating a Standard Operating Procedures Binder which will be reviewed by the Select Board. The BOH will meet the first Monday of each month at 10am.

9. Hwy updates: T. Johnson reported that Zach is going for his hydraulics license tomorrow. He is waiting for the school to reschedule his CDL. He also reported that invoice for the Lenox-Whitney bridges was not approved for payment due to missing paperwork. S. Curran will work with T. Johnson going forward. T. Johnson reported that the gravel roads are washing out. There was discussion on funding for gravel

and material to repair the roads. Lovers Lane is T. Johnsons priority. There was discussion on the salt price going up. T. Johnson described a spray system for the roads that could be beneficial for Washington. Becket recently started using the same system. He will continue to gather information on the equipment and loop in S. Curran. D. Ellis described a similar system that could potentially be funded by Westfield Wild and Scenic. T. Johnson reported that he is aware that Schulze Rd has gotten worse this year and he hopes to get to it this year. K. Lew asked if Chapter 90 could be used for gravel. T. Johnson explained that it can be but the gravel must be tested which drives up costs. K. Lew will bring this up at the upcoming conference in Lenox. D. Ellis asked where the gravel washes out. T. Johnson said that most of it is in the woods. T. Johnson is still gathering quotes for engineering Lower Valley and Johnson Hill Rds. once he chooses an engineer he will submit a Chapter 90 request.

10. Review and discuss Becket EMS draft agreement: The Select Board discussed amending the language in some sections to make the agreement more explicit. The Board wanted an average response time added to the agreement and discussed using the former contract with County as a guide. K. Lew referenced parts of the agreement such as committing that the vehicles meet legal and safety standards. They would also like to see a section for billing and payment frequency and terms. There was discussion on the cost of \$400 per call. It was agreed that a per-call bases should be better for Washington than a flat fee assessment. There was discussion on scheduling the Town meeting with Kathe. S. Curran will follow up with Kathe.

11. Town Administrator report: S. Curran reported that the Town Hall ceiling damage was worked on over the weekend.

12. Discussion of Select Board responsibilities: K. Lew moved to a future agenda.

Adjournment: K. Lew motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:12PM. M. Case seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Accepted: _____ Date _____

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Respectfully submitted,

Tykesha Nothe

Correspondence:

Town of Lee voted to approve a special permit for a property on West Center St.

Chapter 90 apportionment for Washington for fiscal year 2025 is \$167,308.49

Nomination form for inspector of animals. K. Lew will follow up with Chief Miller.