

Town of Washington Select Board Meeting
4/22/2024 7:00 – 9:00 PM Washington Town Hall

1. K. Lew called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Attending for the Select Board were K. Lew and M. Case. D. Ellis attended remotely. After leading the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance, K. Lew made a motion to approve the minutes from 4/8/24. M. Case seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Attendants: Steve Deloye, Dave Drugmand, Meg Megas, Linda Levernoch, Sean Curran, Sherri Thomas, B. Gelb, Jodi Hostetter, and Dick Spencer.

3. Approval of warrants: After asking D. Ellis if he had any questions, K. Lew and M. Case approved the warrants.

4. Logistics for long-term debt renewal: B. Gelb will coordinate with S. Curran for the arrival of the paperwork. The Select Board will sign Thursday.

5. Public Comment period: no public comment

6. Discussion on Suffolk University certificate program opportunity: The Select Board discussed approving 25 Fridays to complete the program. K. Lew expressed his concerns that S. Curran's schedule is already very busy. D. Ellis suggested considering the program if S. Curran is set on its value.

7. Update on Police cruiser and Voc. Ed. vehicle, discussion about repair/replacement

8. Finalize FY25 Budget with Finance Committee & Town Administrator:

Select Board Stipend- The Select Board agreed to the Finance Committee's recommendation to cut the stipend.

Auditing- after discussion it was decided to put the budget back

Transfer Station operation totals- due to oversight, correction was made to decrease by \$6,000 to \$39,000 total.

Treasurer Tax-title Expenses – after discussion with B. Gelb about balance in the revolving account for this same purpose, it was agreed to decrease this budget item to \$4,000.

Debt service – K. Lew explained that bids were coming in lower than initially estimated and there is potential savings of \$4,000 once final award is made on Tuesday. Meg will make adjustments after B. Gelb reports final debt service.

Supplies & Services and Equipment & Support – Current year is running over. After discussion it was agreed to raise the budget for Equipment & Support to \$4,500 but leave Supplies & Services at \$1,500.

Performance acknowledgement – Finance Committee suggested bonuses for the treasurer and custodian, rather than wage increases. The amounts are half of what they requested. The Select Board agreed.

Voc. Ed transportation - There was discussion about how many hours to budget for bus driver. S. Curran explained that based on the current personnel policy stating that "seasonal" is no more than six

consecutive months, the bus driver is not a seasonal employee. He thinks the driver would be entitled to some paid vacation under policy. K. Lew explained that it may no longer be beneficial to keep the transportation responsibility. Due to the cost of the bus, including insurance and repairs, the cost to drive each student to school, and the salary of the bus driver, holidays, and sick days, it was getting close to the likely cost of Dufour contract now. L. Levernoch pointed out that the potential new students might mean we can't fit them all on the bus anyway. S. Curran pointed out that the position was eligible for health benefits. K. Lew clarified that for less than full-time, the town share is only 33% not 75%. J. Hostetter said she was not interested in town health plan, but S. Curran recommended budgeting for it anyway, just in case. He said the possible CBRSD group procurement for bus services was still in development and the group was supposed to meet again soon. K. Lew felt that given the uncertainty of this next year's eventual Voc. Ed transportation solution, we should level fund budget and combine Bus Driver and Taconic & Smith line items for maximum flexibility. D. Drugmand suggested building in the amount for potential health benefits into this line item rather than Health Insurance line item, also for flexibility.

9. Discussion of other articles for ATM warrant, logistics for warrant prep: There was discussion on preparing the final numbers for J. Hostetter to input into the warrant for Monday.

10. Update on Free Cash recertification and discussion of contingent appropriations: There may be a decision this week. The Board discussed reducing borrowing authorities for the truck and removal of dead ash trees. D. Drugmand asked to put \$1000 toward the Town Park basketball court request and the Board agreed but asked S. Curran to get together with the Parks Commission to try to get the basketball court resurfaced with a grant instead. J. Hostetter has been working on the grant process.

K. Lew canceled the upcoming ARPA meeting and proposed extending the Select Board meeting to cover ARPA discussion instead, as well as other topics that have been placed on the back burner since due to the budget process. The Select Board, Finance Committee, and Town Administrator agreed to start the meeting at 6:30.

Adjournment: K. Lew motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:26PM. M. Case seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Accepted: _____ Date _____

Accepted: _____ Date _____

Accepted: _____ Date _____

Respectfully submitted,

Tykesha Nothe

Correspondence

CBRSD updated regional agreement was submitted for review and sent back redlined. The School Committee will review. K. Lew will post the approved agreement.

The Select Board discussed topics for the upcoming Select Board Letter.