

Town of Washington Select Board Meeting

Joint session with Finance Committee

4/29/2024 6:30 – 8:30 PM Washington Town Hall

K. Lew called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Attending for the Select Board were K. Lew, M. Case. and D. Ellis. After leading the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance, K. Lew made a motion to approve the minutes from 4/22/24. M. Case seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Attendants: Steve Deloye, Dave Drugmand, Meg Megas, Linda Levernoch, Sherri Thomas, Jodi Hostetter, Chief Miller, and Dick Spencer. S. Curran attended remotely. Tykesha Nothe was present to take the minutes.

3. Approval of warrant for debt renewal: K. Lew made a motion to approve the warrant for the part of the debt renewal that needs to be paid out of general funds. M. Case seconded. After discussion motion passed unanimously.

4. Town Administrator Report: S. Curran reported that the auditor would like to come to the Town Hall with his staff on May 13. K. Lew asked him to follow up with the Finance officials as soon as possible to make sure they have time to get the required documents are ready. S. Curran reported that the police cruiser earmark for \$75,000 did not make it into the consolidated amendment which means it wasn't included in the House budget, but there's still a chance to get it into the Senate budget to be debated later in May. S. Curran has since reached out to Senator Paul Mark. S. Curran submitted Expression of Interest regarding the Johnson Hill and ADA projects and has a Zoom call scheduled with the Rural Affairs office to discuss One Stop grant opportunities. Multiple meetings with engineers have taken place with K. Lew, T. Johnson, and S. Curran. S. Curran and T. Johnson will review the proposals. There was discussion on the 911 signs. S. Curran has been in contact with P. Mikaniewicz. K. Lew suggested residents sign up for signs. S. Curran suggested it may be easier to get all 288 signs. S. Curran will continue to work on the proposal and review it with the Board on a future agenda. S. Curran explained that it is unnecessary to put out an IFB for our assessors for anything between \$10,000 to \$50,000. Mayflower will not be assessing Washington next year. S. Curran has solicited 3 other quotes from assessors that use the same software as Washington. S. Curran reported that one of the engineers wants to meet with the Select Board. S. Curran thought it would be beneficial because the engineer has a specific way he would apply for the grant. K. Lew said he hoped that the MVP project would work in conjunction with the road project. MVP would address the brook bank stabilization, but won't be addressing the road. K. Lew will follow up with T. Johnson and get back to S. Curran to set a meeting with the engineer. D. Ellis asked how all of this fits in with the MVP. K. Lew explained that the MVP is for the brook not the road.

5. Discussion about Hwy Truck debt and final FY25 appropriations stabilization: \$207,920 has been certified available for appropriation. 20 percent should be left unappropriated per our new financial policy, plus K. Lew basically promised DOR, leaving \$166,336 available. There was discussion on how to appropriate the remaining amount. \$100,000 for stabilization. Eliminated the \$1000 for the basketball court from free cash and increased the Parks Budget back to \$2500. Eliminated the ash tree project. Reduced the truck debt service payment to \$66,336.

There was discussion on eliminating zero appropriations. It was decided to leave in the Select Board Stipend. Remove treasurer stipend. Remove records preservation account. Keep town reports. Remove moderator expense. Remove Conservation Commission training. Remove Building Inspector appropriation. Keep Town Administrator benefit.

6. Approval of Annual Town Meeting warrant: K. Lew made a motion to approve and issue the annual Town Meeting Warrant. D. Ellis seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Chief Miller signed the warrant. K. Lew follow up with D. Drugmand and post documentation on the website prior to the meeting.

7. Discussion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

K. Lew made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2/27/25 ARPA meeting. M. Case seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Review of spending to date: The \$2,000 for Town Hall roof was the only actual spending since last meeting. Unexpended balance of \$33,202.11 was distributed between the 911 signs, police vehicle, and ADA design and engineering for the Town Hall. Since the Town Garage heating system was paid out of Hwy budget, this allocation was removed, adding \$7,000 back to available balance.

Police cruiser is on the road but still needs to be replaced.

Voc. Ed. vehicle, discussion about repair/replacement: D. Ellis said he doesn't think it's a good idea to put an additional 10,000 on the repair. K. Lew hesitates because we might still need a bus and won't be in position to procure a new one. L. Levernoch pointed out that there may be too many students to fit on a bus. M. Megas thinks we should earmark funds for the bus just in case there is no other option. All agreed that we hope not to need to run the bus another year. Line item was changed to Public Service vehicle so it could be used for either the cruiser or the bus, once the situation is clearer. The additional \$7,000 was added into this line. S. Deloye suggested possibly leasing a bus, if needed. M. Case agreed.

K. Lew asked to be kept in the loop in regards to ARPA so he can continue reporting.

8. Update from MMA Western & Rural MA Conference: M. Case and K. Lew attended. K. Lew brought up state owned land and pushed for legislation to get Washington more money.

9. Reconsideration of preferred Voc. Ed. School designation: The Board agreed to review the schools and move the discussion to a future agenda.

10. Other Business:

D. Drugmand asked if there was an update on online permitting. K. Lew will email the vendor again and copy S. Curran and D. Drugmand. Sean will have to take over now, and Dave might be needed to help coordinate with Paul Greene.

K. Lew asked S. Deloye to make sure BOH reviews whether permits are up to date for the campground when they meet next week.

D. Ellis sent in application at Conway school of design for designing the ADA parking lot for about \$1200 upon acceptance.

11. Police Chief Update: Chief Miller reported that she has been patrolling the roads. Frank is unwell but she hopes for his return in the coming weeks. Chief Miller reported that she is working on grants and has

received the software she ordered with her last grant. She has a new speed sign coming in. There was discussion on moving the current sign and analyzing the data.

Adjournment: M. Case motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:09PM. M. Case seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Accepted: _____ Date _____

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Respectfully submitted,

Tykesha Nothe