

DRAFT Budget Committee Meeting Minutes- February 1, 2024

Open the Meeting and Roll Call

- Chair Cutting opened the meeting at 7:03 PM. Chair Seidel also opened the Select Board Meeting at 7:03 PM.
 - *Present:* Michael Cutting (Chair), Robert Blake, Harold Blanchette, James Sherman, Richard Bixby, Michelle Kendrick
 - *Present via Zoom:* Ray Martin
 - *Also Present:* Georgia Flanders, Judy Newman-Rogers, Harry Seidel, Faith Minton, Clyde Carson, Allan Brown

Warner Village Water District Budget

- Presented by Ray Martin
- Operating budget is down 0.34% from previous year
- Total operating budget request for 2024: \$506,879
 - Divided into General Government, Sewer System, and Water System
 - General Government: \$114,175
 - Sewer System: \$187,050
 - Water System: \$98,320
- Debt, Capital Outlay, Capital Reserve: \$997,282.00
 - Total Bond Principal: \$75,786
 - Total Debt Payments: \$107,334
 - Total Capital Outlay: \$1,773,355
- Revenue: \$506,900
- Warrant
 - To choose one Commissioner for two years
 - To choose one Commissioner for three years
 - To choose a Clerk and a Treasurer for the ensuing year
 - To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of Five Hundred Six Thousand, Eight Hundred and Seventy-Nine dollars (\$506,879.00) for the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the District's water and sewer systems. (Recommended by the District Commissioners and the Budget Committee.)
 - To transact any other business that may legally come before the said meeting.
- Public portion of meeting closed at 7:14 PM.

Town of Warner Operating Budget 2024

- Total 2024 Operating Budget: \$4,565,188.65
 - Select Board Budget: \$246,617
 - Elections and Vital Statistics: \$8,245
 - Finance Administration: \$221,999
 - Tax collector salary decreased to \$30,000
 - New software will streamline position and integrate tax collector software with assessing software under Avitar

- Warrant article to combine tax collector and town clerk has been removed, but the possibility of combined positions is still being investigated
- Auditor's report updated to include additional audit
 - Audit report for 2022 received
 - Agreement in writing needed with auditor to set dates when audit will be received
- Assessing: \$47,273.50
 - Utilities was neglected in the previous year's budget, but the line item has been corrected for 2024
 - New software package for assessing was purchased in 2023 rather than 2024
 - Contract with previous assessor ended on January 1, 2024
- Legal: \$25,000
 - Pending Eversource court case with over 40 towns involved
- Benefits: \$623,907.37
 - 13.5% medical insurance increase
- Land Use: \$44,003
- General Government Buildings: \$72,004
 - Moose Grant for Town Hall roof repair received
 - Amount: \$15,000
 - Old Graded School Building
 - \$20,000 budgeted for maintenance and repairs
 - Front doors do not latch and are a safety hazard, must be replaced
 - ADA ramp must be fixed
 - Multiple windows in state of failure
 - Automatic door fixed
 - Handrails to front steps brought up to standard height
 - Maintenance and improvements needed in bathrooms if enough funding available
 - Other improvement needs detailed in Fire Marshal's report
 - Old Fire Station
 - Kearsarge St. location
 - Heated minimally due to equipment storage
- American Legion/Cemeteries: \$32,500
- Insurance: \$119,562
 - Insurance break for sprinkler system must be followed up on
 - Numbers are provided by insurance company
 - Through New Hampshire Municipal Association
 - No insurance holiday this year
- Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission: \$3,525
- Other General Government: \$17,501
- Police Department: \$445,433

- Full time position not yet filled
 - Two interested candidates
- Ambulance: \$85,318
 - Hopkinton provides our ambulance service
- Fire Department: \$236,568
 - No benefited employees in fire department
 - 601 calls in 2023
 - 78 more calls than 2022
 - Average ~5 years ago was in the low 400 range
 - Wage increase as an incentive to new firefighters
 - New rescue vehicle to replace Rescue One
 - Cost: \$263,480
- Forest Fire: \$2,000
- Building Inspector: \$25,895
 - New clerical position: \$19,200
 - Building permits, code compliance
 - More secretarial help needed upstairs
 - Permit-related legal expenses
 - Calculated at 14 hours per week
- Emergency Management: \$10,375
- Highway Department: \$1,113,332
 - Difficulty in predicting winter storms and need for snow removal
- Street Lights/Exit 9 lighting: \$9,201
- Transfer Station: \$320,802
 - Upcoming hazardous waste day
 - Includes addition of further part-time staff
- Health Officer: \$1,400
- Lake Sunapee VNA, Hospice, Riverbend Community Health: \$10,606
- Welfare: \$37,292
 - State statute requires us to pay any welfare costs
- Parks and Recreation: \$39,746
- Library: \$218,360
 - Flat 1/15th of 1% of the value of the town
- Memorial Day: \$1,500
- Conservation Commission: \$1,037
 - Funds received through change of use and expenditure of those funds not included
 - Will contact Conservation Commission for these figures
 - Warner voted at town meeting to provide 100% of those funds to the Conservation Commission
 - Has been used towards purchases of easements and conservation land in the past

- This information may not be available due to pending litigation
- Generally, the Conservation Commission appears before the Select Board before spending these funds
- Highway Construction Loan
 - North Village drainage problem impedes progress
 - Pumpkin Hill and Mason Hill as well as the box culvert on Red Chimney planned for 2024
 - Intended to bring Highway Department ahead of future projects
 - Paperwork and design process takes time
- Investments
 - Opportunities to invest trust funds due to significant interest
 - Over 5% can be earned buying treasuries, etc.
 - ~\$46,000 of interest earned
 - Helps to offset decreased value due to inflation
 - Can be added back into capital reserves to build resources for equipment, etc.

Harry Seidel moved to adjourn the Select Board Meeting. Faith Minton seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Harold Blanchette moved to recess the Budget Committee's meeting until Tuesday, February 6. Michelle Kendrick seconded the motion. The meeting entered recess at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Georgia Flanders
Zoom Administrator