

TOWN OF WARNER



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Select Board: Michael Smith, Chair
Faith Minton
Harry Seidel
Kathleen Frenette, Town Administrator

Select Board Meeting DRAFT Minutes February 4, 2025 at 4:00 PM

Lower Meeting Room Warner Town Hall 5 E Main St

I. Open the Meeting and Roll Call

Mike Smith called the meeting to order at 4:18 PM

Present: Mike Smith, Faith Minton, Harry Seidel, and Kathy Frenette.

II. Select Board Meeting Minutes: January 21, 2025

Page 1 line 17 strike they selected insert he stated this regards to

Page 3 line 18 strike name not stated insert Rebecca Courser

Page 3 insert for the red chimney project

Page 4 second paragraph line 12 insert stated scope

Page 4 line 36 strike done insert down

Page 5 strike issue insert presentation strike part of this and insert wanted to participate

Harry Seidel made a motion seconded by Faith Minton to accept the Select Board meeting minutes for January 21, 2025 as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Select Board Business

a. Proposed Select Board Rules and Procedures

TABLED until the next Select Board meeting

b. Review Overall 2025 Proposed Budget

The Select Board reviewed the overall 2025 proposed budget. No comments or changes made

The Select Board reviewed the capital budget, warrant articles and citizens petition warrant articles.

Article 4: no change previously reviewed

Article 5 no change previously reviewed

Article 6: citizen's petition to dissolve the transportation improvement grant capital reserve fund and transfer the balance and accumulated interest to the general fund. Kathy Frenette explained that the Select Board and the Budget Committee need to decide if they want to recommend this petition warrant article.

Harry Seidel and Faith Minton stated they do not support this. Mike Smith stated the current balance is \$20,243 (as of 12/31/24). Mike Smith would like to know if the funds can be used for sidewalk maintenance.

Harry Seidel made a motion seconded by Faith Minton not to support the citizen petition to dissolve the transportation improvement grant capital reserve fund and transfer the balance with accumulated interest to the Warner General Fund. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 7: citizen's petition to adopt provisions of RSA 32:V-b and implement a tax cap whereby the Government body or Budget Committee shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes based on the prior fiscal year's actual amount of local taxes raised by more than 3.8%.

1 Harry Seidel does not support the idea without a discussion regarding the impact on the town. Faith
2 Minton echoed Harry's statement. She expressed concern about how this would impact the capital budget.
3 Mike Smith stated that he does not see this as a realistic step.

4 **Faith Minton made a motion seconded Harry Seidel not to support the citizen's petition article 7.**
5 **Motion passed unanimously.**

6 Article 8: citizen's petition to revise the previously approved warrant article which diverts 100% of the
7 land use change tax to the conservation fund by reducing the amount diverted to 20%, the remaining 80%
8 to be put in the Warner General Fund balance. Mike Smith stated that he would support this if the funds
9 were put toward something rather than the general fund balance. He would like the funds to be put
10 towards another area that needs protection.

11 **Faith Minton made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel not to support the citizen's petition article 8.**
12 **Motion passed unanimously.**

13 Article 9: citizen's petition Warner Tax Collector compensation to raise and appropriate the sum of
14 \$16,148 consisting of \$15,000 additional wages, payroll taxes \$1,148 for the purpose of additional
15 compensation for the Tax Collector. The estimated tax impact would be an increase of 5 cents. Mike
16 Smith stated that he understands where this is coming from, but he is very cautious regarding this because
17 of article 10. Harry Seidel stated that he does not support this because he is supporting article 10.

18 **Harry Seidel made a motion seconded by Mike Smith to not support the citizen's petition article 9**
19 **to increase the compensation for the Tax Collector. Motion passed unanimously**

20 Article 10: citizen's petition support for combining the Town Clerk and Tax Collector's office creating
21 one office of Town Clerk/Tax Collector who will have a term of 3 years, if approved an article shall be
22 placed on the ballot of the next annual meeting to choose a Town Clerk/Tax Collector. Harry Seidel stated
23 that he is in support of article 10. He views this as an opportunity to reduce the budget. Faith Minton
24 explained that she spoke with surrounding communities who have a combined office. Mike Smith stated
25 that he visited numerous communities and heard positive feedback.

26 **Harry Seidel made a motion seconded by Faith Minton to support combining the Town Clerk and**
27 **Tax Collector's offices creating one office of Town Clerk/Tax Collector for a term of 3 years. Motion**
28 **passed unanimously.**

29 The Select Board agreed to hold an information session at the next Select Board meeting on February 18th
30 to discuss the impact of article 10.

31 Article 11: record preservation for \$20,000. Mike Smith stated the Town Clerk is open to any amount, it
32 does not have to be the full \$20,000.

33 **Faith Minton made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to reduce the Records Preservation CRF to**
34 **\$10,000. Motion passed unanimously.**

35 Article 12: Police vehicle CRF \$20,000 Police Chief Chandler reduced this to \$20,000.

36 **Faith Minton made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to accept article 12 as written. Motion**
37 **passed unanimously.**

38 Article 13: previously approved

39 Article 14: Highway Capital Reserve fund: to move \$90,000 to lease 2 pieces of equipment.

40 Kathy Frenette stated that Articles 15 and 16 refer to the lease to purchase for the grader and the loader
41 backhoe. Mike Smith expressed concern regarding how this will impact the Public Works operating
42 budget for the next few years. Harry Seidel supports article 14 as previously discussed. The Select Board
43 discussed the benefit of leasing as it relates to maintenance.

44 Article 15: authorize the Select Board to enter into "lease to purchase" agreement in the amount of
45 \$315,500 payable over a term of 7 years for a new highway grader. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate
46 the sum of \$53,500 for the first annual 2025 payment for this lease agreement from the Highway
47 Equipment Capital Reserve. The annual lease payment for this 7-year lease will be \$53,500. Upon
48 conclusion of this lease agreement the town takes full ownership of the grader for \$1.

1 The Select Board expressed concern regarding the language in articles 15 and 16, they agreed to come
2 back to this after they reviewed the remaining warrant articles.

3 Article 17: Transfer Station Facility; to raise and appropriate \$50,000 to be placed in the previously
4 established Transfer Station Capital Reserve fund.

5 Mike Smith stated that he would like to reduce the overall capital budget by \$100,000. The Select Board
6 discussed reducing the transfer station CRF request to \$25,000.

7 **Faith Minton made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to reduce the Transfer Station Facility CRF**
8 **to \$25,000. Motion passed unanimously.**

9 Article 18: Transfer Station Equipment

10 The Select Board discussed reducing the Transfer Station Equipment CRF request. Kathy Frenette stated
11 this for the rehab of the bailer. No change

12 Article 19: Firefighter Equipment for equipment replacement (breathing apparatus). Harry Seidel does not
13 support reducing this CRF. Mike Smith inquired about the \$94,000 currently in CRF. No change.

14 Article 20: Fire and Rescue vehicle; to raise and appropriate \$100,000 to be placed in the previously
15 established CRF. Mike Smith suggested reducing the amount to \$80,000.

16

17 An audience member (name not stated) questioned why the Select Board is making cuts without the
18 department heads present to defend their requests. He stated that kicking the can down the road will cost
19 more in the future. Mike Smith explained that each department has discussed their budgets with the Select
20 Board. He stated that each department must make sacrifices. Kathy Frenette stated this forestry vehicle is
21 \$125,000 and next year the tanker is \$400,000. The Select Board agreed to revisit this during the Budget
22 Committee meeting later today.

23

24 Article 21: Property Reval CRF to raise and appropriate \$40,000. No change

25 Article 22: Contingency Fund to vote to establish a contingency fund for unanticipated expenses, to raise
26 and appropriate \$10,000. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance, not to be raised by
27 taxation. Mike Smith recommended increasing this to \$20,000. Any unspent money will be returned to
28 the unassigned fund balance.

29 **Faith Minton made a motion seconded by Mike Smith to increase the Contingency Fund request to**
30 **\$20,000. Motion passed unanimously.**

31 Article 23: Employee Expendable Trust Fund; to raise and appropriate \$40,000 used to partially reimburse
32 participating town employees for deductible health expenses, this sum is to come from the unassigned
33 fund balance, not to be raised by taxation.

34 Article 24: Warner Community Center to raise and appropriate \$20,000 to establish a Warner Community
35 Center Capital Reserve Fund for energy efficiencies, handicap ADA compliant bathrooms, safety issues,
36 other maintenance and improvements to the WCC. The funds can be used as a match when applying for
37 grants. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance, not to be raised by taxation.

38

39 Harry Seidel questioned the language; he would like it clear that this request is for applying for grants to
40 address safety issues. He would prefer the following: to raise and appropriate \$20,000 to establish a
41 Warner Community Center Capital Reserve Fund to apply for grants to address safety issues, energy
42 efficiency, ADA compliant bathrooms, handicap ramp and other improvements to the Warner Community
43 Center. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance, not to be raised by taxation.

44 **Faith Minton made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to accept the language as amended for**
45 **article 24. Motion passed unanimously**

46

47 The Select Board resumed their discussion on article 15 and 16. Kathy Frenette explained that she
48 received the language from Tim, she confirmed that the Select Board wanted to change the language to
49 read as: *...for the 1st annual 2025 payment for this lease agreement from the highway capital equipment*

1 CRF” on both article 15 and 16. Harry Seidel would like to revise the language replacing furthermore
2 with the word and.

3 **REVISED** Article 15: to authorize the Select Board to enter into “lease to purchase” agreement in the
4 amount of \$315,500 payable over a term of 7 years for a new highway grader, and to raise and appropriate
5 the sum of \$53,500 for the first annual 2025 payment for this lease agreement from the Highway
6 Equipment Capital Reserve. The annual lease payment for this 7-year lease will be \$53,500. Upon
7 conclusion of this lease agreement the town takes full ownership of the grader for \$1.

8
9 Article 16: to authorize the Select Board to enter into “lease to purchase” agreement in the amount of
10 \$129,900 payable over a term of 5 years for a new highway loader backhoe and to raise and appropriate
11 the sum of \$29,500 for the 1st annual 2025 payment for this lease agreement from the Highway
12 Equipment Capital Reserve. The annual lease payment for this 5 year lease will be \$29,500.

13 **Harry Seidel made a motion seconded by Faith Minton to accept Article 16 as read. Motion passed**
14 **unanimously.**

15
16 **Harry Seidel made a motion seconded by Faith Minton to accept Article 15 as read. Motion passed**
17 **unanimously.**

18
19 **IV. Town Administrator’s Report**

20 None

21 **V. Consent Agenda**

22 None

23 **VI. Manifest**

24 **Faith Minton made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to approve the manifest for February 4,**
25 **2025. Motion passed unanimously.**

26 **VII. Public Comment**

27 Ross Smith suggested looking into the benefits of training for the town mechanic to repair the newer,
28 more technical vehicles. Mike Smith explained that it is being explored.

29 Derek Narducci questioned a Fire Department vehicle replacement. Mike Smith explained the vehicle is
30 well beyond its useful life expectancy.

31 **VIII. Select Board Unanticipated Business**

32 None

33 **IX. Non-Public Session (If needed, RSA 91-A:3 II (a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,I,j,k,l,m))**

34 None

35 **X. Adjournment**

36 The Select Board public meeting ended at 6:37 PM, to resume with the Budget Committee at 7:00 PM

37
38 Select Board PUBLIC Meeting Minutes

39 Respectfully submitted on 2/5/25 10:15 PM by Tracy Doherty

40 Edited by Darcie Buskey, Assistant Clerk