

Town of Amherst, NH
WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
2 Main Street
Monday, November 12, 2019
6:00 p.m.

Minutes for Ways & Means Committee - 11/12/2019:

The Ways & Means Committee was assembled by 6:05pm. Members in attendance: Peter Moustakis, Elaina Bedio, Danielle Pray, Matthew Seiler, Scott Tuthill, and Lisa Eastland.

Upon joining the selectmen meeting at 6:30pm, Ways and Means heard a presentation by members of the planning board regarding costs and a timeline for the development of the town's Master Plan. The town administrator suggested more realistic cost estimations be presented at a future meeting.

The Town Administrator presented Draft #3 of the town budget and W&M was given a sheet explaining any adjustments made to the previous draft (#2) as well as a sheet presenting the potential tax impact for proposed warrant articles. Mr. Shankle also entered into a discussion regarding items that were expected to appear on the operating budget but do not as of now. These include:

1. Promotion of Deputy Town Clerk (at a grade 5 salary) to Executive Assistant (Grade 12, Step 4). This will affect the budget by increasing wages +\$3,300.
2. A COLA of +2%
3. The implementation of impact fees which will cost approx. \$25,000
4. (Tentatively) \$25,000 for the development of the Master Plan

Discussion moved briefly to impact fees/CIP before representatives from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee stepped up to discuss their proposed warrant articles (#32-35). They presented a map to show where proposed multi-modal pathways would be constructed as well as diagrams and photos of similar pathways in other towns.

- Selectmen Brew and Lyon suggested keeping warrant articles separate for each proposed project for the benefit of specificity to the taxpayer. Selectman Angelo favored a broader capital reserve fund for all projects for the purpose of grant match eligibility and allowing for funds to be distributed on an as-needed basis.
- The Bicycle/Pedestrian committee was instructed to get firmer numbers on all projects, but particularly the Amherst Street pathway and the Boston Post pathway.

Discussion occurred regarding the addition of warrant articles #38 and #39 which establishes that P MEC funds that hitherto went into its own designated revolving account, will now be deposited into the Recreation Department's revolving account.

Ways and Means was dismissed from the selectmen meeting at 8:34pm and reconvened downstairs to recap, clarify, and review our timeline for the rest of the budget process -- including voting on the warrant articles and submitting our report to the Amherst Citizen. Elaina Bedio will contact Chris Buchanan for the presentation materials from the meeting (map, diagrams, etc.).

The date of our next meeting was confirmed. W&M adjourned at 8:55pm.