

Town of Amherst, NH
WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
2 Main Street
Monday, January 13, 2020
6:00 p.m.

The Ways & Means Committee was assembled by 6:30pm. Members in attendance: Peter Moustakis, Elaina Bedio, Danielle Pray, Matthew Seiler, Lisa Eastland and Mike Parisi.

Ways and Means did not reach a quorum until the beginning of the Selectmen meeting (6:30pm) and therefor there are no minutes to report prior to that time.

6:30pm: Ways and Means joined the selectmen meeting. The first item on the agenda was the citizen forum and only one citizen commented regarding development concerns. Town Administrator Dean Shankle then made some administrative comments that do not fall under Ways and Means purview. Subsequently, chairman Peter Lyon addressed the change in the forecasted tax increase (per thousand) should the operating budget pass. It was previously stated to be \$5.15 per \$1,000 but was recently changed to \$5.35 per \$1,000. Mr. Lyon explained that this was due to the exclusion of certain factors such as town liability (\$340K) with regard to the veteran tax credit, potential offset by way of the unassigned fund balance, and overlay.

7:00pm: Public Hearing officially begins with a review of each department - highlighting the achievements and services performed by each. Next the chairman explained the distribution of tax revenue among the different departments and highlighted the significant increases as well as the causes of those increases. Next, the selectmen explained the default budget, which is the amount the town will need to work with in the event that this year's budget does not pass (essentially, last year's budget). The selectmen then reviewed each of the proposed warrant articles and invited questions. At the close of the public hearing, Chairman Lyon explained the final article (#37) which will move to the ballot by petition without regard to any debate. This article changes the means by which candidates are selected to be on the town planning board, from appointment by the BOS to an elected board of members. The date, time, and location of the Deliberative Session was stated.

8:10pm: Public Hearing concluded.

W&M was dismissed from the BOS meeting at 8:17pm and convened downstairs to wrap up.

The date of the Deliberative Session was confirmed. W&M adjourned at 8:25pm.