

Attendees:

Lori Mix, Chair (LM)
Thomas Cook, Secretary (TC)
Andrew Pataky (AP)
Tom Silvia (TS)
Wendy Rannenberg (WR)
Diane Layton (DL)

Ways & Means Meeting Call to Order: 6:01 pm. Felix Hertzka Conference Room

1. Discussed outcome of the 12/19/22 Board of Selectman (BOS) Meeting.
2. AP raised concern about the lack of available information for the public on the petition warrant articles.
3. Ways & Means vote on budget articles:
 - Article 22: Operating Budget
 - W&M discussed the approximately \$200K additional revenue added to the revenue budget from the state announced during the 12/19/22 BOS Meeting. Several members voiced support for use of these funds to increase COLA for town employees. Concern raised that the budget may have been cut too much this year which threatens adequate funding in future years since the BOS may be reluctant to propose a large percentage increase.
 - Consensus that, despite these concerns, the budget looks good overall and that it is too late in the process to negotiate a change with the BOS.
 - Vote in support 6-0
 - Article 23: Contingency Fund
 - Vote in support 6-0
 - Article 24: Baboosic Lake Septic Operating Budget
 - Vote in support 6-0
 - Article 25: Communication Center Capital Reserve Fund (CRF)
 - Vote in support 6-0
 - Article 26: Assessing & Revaluation CRF
 - Vote in support 6-0
 - Article 27: Bridge Repair and Replacement CRF
 - Vote in support 6-0
 - Article 28: Fire Rescue and Repair CRF
 - Vote in support 6-0
 - Article 29: DPW Vehicles and Acquisition CRF
 - Vote in support 6-0
 - Article 30: Amherst Multimodal CRF
 - Vote in support 6-0
 - Article 31: Recreation Department CRF for Buck Meadow
 - Vote in support 6-0
 - Article 32: Readoption of Veterans Tax Credit
 - Vote in support 6-0
 - Article 33: Elderly and Disabled Exemption
 - Vote in support 6-0
 - Article 34: Add tax impact of warrant article to town ballot

- Vote in support 6-0
- Article 35: to be determined
 - No vote as W&M is waiting for the official language for the article
- Petition Article 1: Tax Cap
 - Discussion as to whether the W&M should vote on this. LM communicated that Steve Coughlan, Town Moderator, advised that whether to take a vote was at the discretion of the W&M Committee. BOS did vote on the petition articles impacting town budget and finances. After discussion, the W&M decided to do vote on Petition Article 1.
 - Vote against 0-6
- Petition Article 2: Noise Ordinance
 - No vote taken as this article has no direct impact on town finance and budget.
- 4. W&M accepted the W&M Minutes from 12/12. AP motioned to accept and DL second.
- 5. LM motioned to adjourn and AP second

Meeting Adjourned 6:49 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Tom Cook
Secretary, Ways & Means