

Attendees:

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

Ways & Means Meeting Call to Order: 6:15 pm. Felix Hertzka Conference Room

- General discussion on Unassigned Fund Balance

Meeting Adjourned 6:26

Board of Selectman (BOS) Meeting Call to Order 6:30 PM Landry Meeting Room, 2nd Floor

BOS discussed:

- Budget Draft #3
- Warrant Article Draft #3
- Revenue Budget

Ways & Means Meeting Call to Order: 8:36 pm. Felix Hertzka Conference Room after dismissal from Board of Selectman Meeting

1. Motion to accept the 11/28 Meeting Minutes – AP motion and TS second. Vote passed unanimously.
2. LM notified the committee that Mike Patterson will be stepping down from Ways and Means for remainder of this budget cycle. Russ Hodgkins will be appointed in his place as Russ was the first alternate.
3. Capital Improvement Plan Committee (CIP) requested a Ways and Means member to sit on the CIP as a representative. CIP usually meets at the end of July and into August. AP volunteered to be the representative. WR volunteered to be an alternate.
4. LM notified the committee that the BOS needs W&M votes on the budget and Warrant Articles by 1/9.
 - a. TS raised question on what the formal W&M vote means. Does the vote mean that the W&M endorses or opposes passage of the budget or warrant article or does it mean that the committee feels that they are suitable for vote by the town?
 - b. LM noted that this discussion has come up every year she's been on the committee and its not well defined.
 - c. Committee discussion came to tentative consensus that it is an endorsement since that is how many voters see it.
 - d. LM noted that W&M votes and then gives a few sentences explaining the position. Those members opposed to the W&M majority get an opportunity to voice their position at the town meeting in January.

5. Walked through the budget and warrant articles to see if any members had any major objections.

This was not the formal vote for or against each item.

- a. Operating Budget – No dissent
- b. Warrant Article Contingency Fund – No dissent
- c. Baboosic Lake Septic – No dissent
- d. Communications Center – No dissent
- e. Bridge Capital Reserve – No dissent
- f. Fire Truck Capital Reserve – No dissent
 - i. Brief discussion on whether this should be higher than the 257K in the current warrant article to account for inflation but decided not to pursue a change.
- g. DPW CRF – No dissent
- h. Multimodal CRF – Issue raised
 - i. WR noted that the language in the article had changed since its last passage and that legal counsel had previously opposed language in the current writing.
 - ii. LM noted rules on CRF require the wording to remain the same as prior passage or it would be a new CRF.
 - iii. LM to raise question with BOS to revert to prior wording.
- i. Recreation Dept Warrant Article for Buck Meadow – No dissent
- j. Veteran Tax Credit Warrant Article – No dissent
- k. Petition Warrant Articles – Unclear if the W&M needs to vote on these. No vote taken.
 - i. The two petition articles are Tax Cap and Noise Ordinance

6. Scheduled meeting to take formal votes on Budget and Warrant Articles on 12/21/2022 at 6 PM

7. AP move to adjourn. TS second. Vote unanimous.

PM Meeting adjourned at 9:22 PM

ACTIONS:

- LM to get CRF balances for the W&M
- LM to question BOS on Multimodal Warrant Article Wording

Respectively Submitted,

Tom Cook
Secretary, Ways & Means