

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Board of Selectmen

Minutes

March 27, 2024

HYBRID MEETING

Minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: First Selectman James L. Brinton, Selectmen Jay Hubelbank and Dean Sarjeant.

Public: Susan Smith.

Call to Order: First Selectman Jim Brinton called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

MOTION: To add subsequent business not already on the Agenda. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. Discussion: Forwarding the proposed FY 2024-2025 budget to the Board of Finance. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To forward the draft of the proposed FY 2024-2025 budget to the Board of Finance. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: The preliminary budget, with a 3.5% increase, is posted on the Town's website. Presently it stands at \$21,673,978. This draft does not include the final amounts to be budgeted for the Health Department, results of the Board of Assessment Appeals or the Region #12 budget. The motion passed unanimously. The Selectmen thanked the staff and Board and Commission members for their conscientious work in putting the budget together.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the March 14, 2024 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

First Selectman's Report: Jim Brinton reported the following:

- Jim will be meeting with Highway Director, Kevin Smith, to discuss the upcoming paving and drainage work schedule throughout Town.
- Hinkle Road - As it is a scenic road, all residents will be notified of the planned road and tree work and work will proceed only as outlined in the Scenic Road Ordinance.
- The Board of Selectmen will forward the proposed FY 2024-2025 budget to the Board of Finance for discussion at their April 1, 2024 meeting.
- The Lake Waramaug survey has been completed. Jim will be meeting with the First Selectmen of Warren and Kent and then present the results at a public meeting for all three Towns at the Washington Town Hall with representative of Tera Vigillis.

Selectmen's Reports:

Jay Hubelbank reported:

- **Earth Day** – April 20, 2024 – Town Hall lawn. The Sustainability Committee and Washington Environmental Council have been working together to plan the events. There will be a

dumpster to take what is collected in the annual road-side clean up, as well as information booths and various activities.

- **Tree cutting** – Jay suggested that information be given via the weekly email blasts and website about tree cutting and trimming within the Town’s right of way; noting that this is not an arbitrary process but rather one that is vetted through the Highway Department, the tree warden who is a licensed arborist and the reasons considered in making decisions as to the trees that need to be trimmed or removed.

Dean Sarjeant reported:

- **Lake Waramaug Authority** will be holding an in-person (no zoom) meeting on April 3, 2024 at 6:00p.m. in the Warren Community Center.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Visitors:

- **Susan Smith** inquired about this meeting being held this evening as opposed to tomorrow evening. It was explained that due to the Town Hall being closed in observance of Good Friday, the meeting was scheduled for this evening.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:45p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen’s Assistant