

Barbara Campbell _____

Frank DiFruscio _____

Bob Thompson _____

**Budget Hearing #2 Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2024
Unofficial Until Approved**

Present: Barbara Campbell, Chairman, Frank DiFruscio, Selectmen and Bob Thompson, Selectman

Attendees: Fire Chief Jay Henry, Kevin Bennett, Building Inspector, Alicia Hawkes, Fred Tompkins, Marilyn Rodes, Sarah Clemons, Elizabeth Finch, Bill Terry, Dick Bennett, Barbara Stelle, Tish Hanlon, Stephen Weeder, Scott Badger, Ben Halcyon, Bobbi Meserve, Gary Allen, Chief Chris Perley, Sargent Mike Mosher, Julie Hoyt, Town Administrator, Betsy Eaton, Administrative Assistant, and Hank Benesh.

1. Barbara Campbell called the meeting to order.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Barbara wanted to clean up a couple of things before moving on with the agenda.

1 - Discrepancy on the warrant articles page – line item Fire Department Equipment amount was \$3,000.00 corrected amount is \$20,000.00.

2 - Fire Department Maintenance - \$50,000.00 is listed in 2023 for budget and warrant and in 2024 it is already an existing recurring expendable trust fund

3. Proposed Operating Budget

At the last meeting, we went through an approved every line item and voted on each one. We need to make a motion to approve the actual proposed operating budget of \$3,055,119.00.

Bob Thompson made a motion that we approve the proposed budget of 2024 of \$3,055,119.00 seconded by Frank DiFruscio. All approved

3. Warrant Articles

The warrant article to Establish a Town of Jackson Housing Commission was approved at the last meeting, but the Housing Commission ETF was tabled for more details. The

Town Council reviewed the Housing Commission ETF warrant article and provided a revised version. Bill Terry and Scott Badger both spoke providing information on other similar organizations in Mount Washington Valley. Further discussion on the amount of \$50,000 with examples of how the money will be spent by the Housing Commission. Barbara Campbell pointed out that this is a warranty article and that whether or not the Select Board decides to endorse this article will be presented to the voters at Town Meeting.

Frank DiFruscio made a motion to pass Option #2 as written which includes the \$50,000.00 seconded by Bob Thompson. All Approved

Before the Select Board moved on with the last warrant article Barbara called on Ben Halcyon who asked him to speak on behalf of the Conservation Committee. The committee has concerns that the repairs from the December 18th rainstorm will exceed their budget. Barbara responded that we get relief from FEMA which is still yet to be determined. She also added that there was a brief discussion on establishing an Expendable Trust Fund for town owned property and buildings which can be revisited for next year. Barbara thanked Ben for all that the Conservation Committee does.

The last Petitioned Warrant Article – Transfer Station Dump Store Reopening with supporting signatures was read.

Barbara spoke to the article which related back to the October 31st meeting with both the Jackson and Bartlett Select Boards, Bob Blake and many residents. A committee was being formed to come up with suggestions and possibly a plan to reopen the dump store. The article that the committee submitted was reviewed by NH Municipal and the Town's attorney with feedback that it may not be legally enforceable even if passed by the voters. Sarah Clemons brought up liability with volunteers at the dump and was assured that all steps would be taken along with background checks.

Bob Thompson also spoke to the reopening of the dump store. He also shared that with the bylaws in place that the dump operates by, a 2/3 majority from both Jackson and Bartlett to pass a resolution to reopen the dump store can be done anytime. Also, posting the next transfer station meeting in all locations would ensure that residents are notified. The next meeting will be on April 9th at 4:30 pm in Jackson.

Frank DiFruscio made a motion to approve the Transfer Station Dump Store Reopening – Petitioned warrant article, seconded by Bob Thompson. Vote 1-yes 2-No

Barbara wanted to clear up a question from the last meeting on whether the Select Board would talk about the general fund balance. This is something that would be discussed in October when they set the tax rate. The budget does affect the tax rate but also the property taxes play a part. Last year \$250,000 from the general fund was used to reduce

the municipal tax rate. We are not sure what will happen next year but that are collected.
the general fund one last thing from the last meeting

Barbara Campbell made a motion to approve the 2024 Proposed Budget for the Warrant Articles of \$985,291.00 seconded by Frank DiFruscio. All approved

4. Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting

Barbara Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:44pm, seconded by Bob Thompson. All approved.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Betsy Eaton

To view the full video recording of this meeting visit www.jacksonflicks.com