



Budget Committee Meeting

November 7, 2024, 7:00 PM

Open the Meeting and Roll Call

Chair Michael Cutting opened the Budget Committee meeting at 7:03 PM

Budget Committee Members Present: Ray Martin, Michael Cutting (Chair), Alfred Hanson, Harold Blanchette, Rick Bixby and Robert Blake (via Zoom). Bill Hanson (via Zoom).

Open the Select Board Meeting and Roll Call

Warner Select Board Chair Mike Smith opened their meeting at 7:05. Present: Mike Smith (Chair), Harry Seidel, Faith Minton (via Zoom), Kathy Frenette Town Administrator and Judy Newman-Rogers Selectboard Administrative Assistant.

Approval of Minutes • October 17, 2024

Harold Blanchette made a motion seconded by Ray Martin to approve the October 17, 2024 Budget Committee meeting minutes as amended. Motion passed with Michael Cutting, Alfred Hanson, Harold Blanchette, Rick Bixby and Faith Minton voting in favor. Ray Martin and Robert Blake abstained

Amendment: Page 2 line 16 strike by insert in

Michael Cutting announced the 2024 tax rate: \$9.15 municipal, \$2.66 county, \$1.77 state education and \$17.31 local education. 2024 Tax Rate \$30.89
Revenue \$2,000,013
Fund Balance \$843,197

There was a discussion regarding the estimated revenue from 2023 to 2024. The Budget Committee conservatively estimated revenue and they stressed that the one time payment from the (North Road) cell tower easement of \$600,000 will not be there next year.

Presentation of 2025 Budget

Mike Cutting explained that the proposed budget increased \$354,312 an increase of 7.8%.

Select Board budget: increased \$53,675 a 21.8% increase

IT Managed Care proposed amount of \$68,000 is a place holder (worst case scenario) and is expected to be reduced when the Select Board selects a vendor. It was recommended that the Select Board negotiate a one year contract. Computer Software (Zoom) proposed amount is \$4,000

Finance, Town Clerk, Tax Collector: total budgets are \$228,171, a decrease of \$2,667

Assessing: increased by 92.8% attributed to the new assessing software and assessing services

Legal: increased: 3 categories: general legal, Eversource legal fund and 91-A requests

Personnel Administration of Benefits: proposed amount \$721,914 is a place holder, 2 quotes are pending.

1 **Land Use:** increased by \$9,000, the proposed amount of \$23,400 is a place holder as the search for a
2 new coordinator continues.
3 **Maintenance of General Government Buildings (GGB):** Town Hall, Warner Community Center
4 and Old Fire Station (Kearsarge Mountain Road) decreased by \$1,366.
5 **American Legion, Cemetery** duplicate line items were eliminated.
6 **Insurance:** property liability, workers compensation, unemployment increased by \$10,975
7 **Police Department:** decreased by \$ 8,561
8 **Ambulance:** proposed amount of \$90,000 is a place holder, waiting for contract price
9 **Fire Department:** increased by \$5,190
10 **Building Inspection:** decreased \$305
11 **Emergency Management:** increased \$202
12 **Highway department:** increased by \$81,030 attributed to an increase in supplies, parts and gravel.
13 *There was a discussion on the possible replacement of the grader the various funding options. There*
14 *was another discussion on the possible replacement of the loader.*

15
16 Bill Hanson joined the meeting via Zoom

17
18 **Transfer Station:** proposed budget \$373,000 an increase of \$53,000 attributed to an increase in
19 wages (to hire a full time and one part-time position).

20
21 **Welfare:** proposed budget increased to \$ 45,182 an increase of \$7,000.

22 **Parks and Recreation:** increased \$1,661 for seasonal employees

23 **Library** receives 1/16th of 1% of town value.

24
25 **Warner Village Water District:** Ray Martin WVWD Administrative Assistant recapped the WVWD
26 proposed budget in the amount of \$506,874. The budget increased 4.19% attributed to \$20,000 for
27 outside contract services, 3% wage increase, benefits and insurance increases.

28
29 **Sewer** system proposed budget: wages increased 3%, chemicals increased \$2,300, electric
30 decreased. There was discussion relating to the benefits of the solar array and the future plans for
31 the sewer system.

32
33 **Water** system proposed budget decreased \$1,600. There was a discussion regarding the payoff of
34 various loans. Revenue is estimated at \$185,000

35
36 Next meeting is November 14, 2024 to review the Police Department, Fire Department and
37 Emergency Management budgets with Department Heads.

38 39 **Adjournment**

40 **Ray Martin made a motion second by Rick Bixby to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**

41 **Faith Minton made a motion second by Harry Seidel to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting.**

42 **Passed unanimously.**

43
44 The meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM

45
46 Respectfully submitted by Tracy Doherty

47 Edits, Judy Newman-Rogers,

48 Selectboard Administrative Assistant