



## **Budget Committee Meeting Draft Minutes**

**February 6, 2025, 7:00 PM**

### **Open the Meeting and Roll Call**

Chair Cutting opened the Budget Committee meeting at 7:00 PM.

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

Mike Smith opened the Select Board meeting at 7:02 PM

Select Board: Faith Minton, Mike Smith, Harry Seidel, and Kathy Frenette.

### **Approval of Minutes** • 1/30/2025

**Harold Blanchette made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson to approve the January 30, 2025 Budget Committee meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Final Vote 2025 Operating Budget**

The 2025 Operating Budget stands at \$4,603,185.64 a .879% decrease from 2024.

**Budget Committee: to recommend the proposed 2025 operating budget. Roll Call Vote: R. Bixby, A. Hanson, R. Blake, R. Martin, B. Hanson, H. Blanchette and F. Minton voted to recommend. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Select Board: Faith Minton made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to recommend to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,603,185.64 for the 2025 operating budget. Roll Call Vote Minton YES Seidel YES Smith YES.**

### **Final Vote 2025 Revenue**

Estimated 2025 revenue \$1,346,300

**Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Harold Blanchette to recommend the proposed revenue of \$1,346,300. Roll Call Vote: R. Bixby, A. Hanson, R. Blake, R. Martin, B. Hanson, H. Blanchette and F. Minton voted to recommend. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Select Board: Faith Minton made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to recommend the 2025 proposed revenue of \$1,346,300. Roll Call Vote Minton YES Seidel YES Smith YES.**

### **Final Vote 2025 Warrant Articles**

Article 3 Citizen Petition; modification of the veteran tax credit from \$500 per year to \$750.

**Ray Martin made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson to recommend modifying the veteran tax credit pursuant to RSA 72:28 II from \$500 per year to \$750. Roll Call Vote: R. Bixby, A. Hanson, R. Blake, R. Martin and F. Minton voted to recommend. B. Hanson voted not to recommend. Vote passed 6-1-0**

**Discussion on Citizen Petition motion: Alfred Hanson inquired what the increase will be. Robert Blake stated it will increase by 50%.**

Article 4 Citizen Petition to modify the all veterans' tax credit from \$500 to \$750.

**Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Harold Blanchette to recommend modifying the provisions of RSA 72:28 (b) All veterans' tax credit from \$500 to \$750. Roll Call Vote: F. Minton and R. Blake voted to recommend, R. Bixby, A. Hanson, B. Hanson, R. Martin and H. Blanchette voted not to recommend. Motion Failed 2-5-0.**

1 Discussion on Citizen Petition motion: there was a discussion regarding the difference between the  
2 standard (optional) veteran tax credit and the all veteran tax credit and there was additional discussion  
3 regarding the financial impact of increasing the all vet tax credit to \$750.  
4

5 Article 5 Citizen Petition to dissolve the Transportation Improvement CRF estimated at \$20,243.87 and  
6 accumulated interest to be transferred to Warner's General Fund.  
7 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Robert Blake to recommend Article 5 to dissolve the**  
8 **Transportation Improvement CRF estimated at \$20,243.87 and accumulated interest to be**  
9 **transferred to Warner's General Fund. Roll Call Vote: R. Bixby, A. Hanson, B. Hanson, R. Martin**  
10 **and H. Blanchette voted to recommend; R. Blake and F. Minton voted not to recommend Article 5.**  
11 **Motion passed 5-2-0**  
12

13 Article 6 Citizen Petition to adopt RSA 32:5-b to implement a tax cap.  
14 Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Harold Blanchette to recommend Article 6. Roll Call Vote:  
15 **R. Bixby, A. Hanson, R. Martin, H. Blanchette and F. Minton voted not to recommend article 6. R.**  
16 **Blake and B. Hanson voted to recommend. Motion Failed 2-5-0**  
17

18 Article 7 Citizen Petition to divert 80% of land use tax to the general fund and 20% to conservation.  
19 **Harold Blanchette made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson to recommend article 7. Roll Call**  
20 **Vote: R. Bixby, A. Hanson, R. Blake and F. Minton voted not to recommend, B. Hanson and H.**  
21 **Blanchette voted to recommend and R. Martin abstained. Motion Failed 2-4-1**  
22

23 Article 8 Citizen Petition to raise and appropriate \$16,148 to increase the Tax Collector's wages.  
24 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Ray Martin to recommend Article 8. Roll Call Vote:**  
25 **R. Bixby, A. Hanson, R. Blake, R. Martin, B. Hanson, H. Blanchette and F. Minton voted not to**  
26 **recommend. Motion failed.**  
27

28 Article 9 Record Preservation CRF \$10,000  
29 **Robert Blake made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to recommend Article 9.**  
30 **Roll Call Vote: R. Bixby, A. Hanson, R. Blake, R. Martin, B. Hanson, H. Blanchette and F. Minton**  
31 **voted to recommend. Motion passed unanimously.**  
32

33 Article 10 Police Vehicle CRF \$20,000  
34 **Harold Blanchette made a motion seconded by Ray Martin to recommend Article 10. Roll Call**  
35 **Vote: R. Bixby, A. Hanson, R. Blake, R. Martin, B. Hanson, H. Blanchette and F. Minton voted to**  
36 **recommend. Motion passed unanimously.**  
37

38 Article 11 Bridge Repair Replacement CRF \$50,000.  
39 **Rick Bixby made a motion seconded by Ray Martin to recommend Article 11.**  
40 Discussion on Article 11: Alfred asked for an update on various grants for bridge projects.  
41 **Roll Call Vote: R. Bixby, A. Hanson, R. Blake, R. Martin, B. Hanson, H. Blanchette and F. Minton**  
42 **voted to recommend. Motion passed unanimously.**  
43

44 Article 12 Lease to Purchase agreement in the amount of \$315,500 for Highway grader and appropriate  
45 \$53,500 from the Highway Equipment CRF for the first annual 2025 payment.  
46 **Robert Blake made a motion seconded by Harold Blanchette to recommend that Select Board to**  
47 **enter into a Lease to Purchase agreement in the amount of \$315,500 for Highway grader and**  
48 **appropriate \$53,500 from the Highway Equipment CRF for the first annual 2025 payment. Roll**

1 **Call Vote: R. Bixby, A. Hanson, R. Blake, R. Martin, B. Hanson, H. Blanchette and F. Minton voted**  
2 **to recommend. Motion passed unanimously.**  
3

4 Article 13 Lease to Purchase agreement in the amount of \$129,900 for a new highway loader/backhoe and  
5 appropriate \$29,500 from the Highway Equipment CRF for the first annual 2025 payment.

6 **Discussion on Article 13:** Alfred Hanson asked what the drop in value would be if this was delayed one  
7 year. Harold Blanchette stated approximately \$20,000.

8 **Harold Blanchette made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to recommend the Select Board to enter**  
9 **into a into a Lease to Purchase agreement in the amount of \$129,900 for a Highway loader/backhoe**  
10 **and to appropriate \$29,900 from the Highway Equipment CRF for the first annual 2025 payment.**

11 **Roll Call Vote: R. Bixby, R. Blake, B. Hanson, R. Martin, H. Blanchette, F. Minton voted to**  
12 **recommend and A. Hanson voted not to recommend. Motion passed 6-1-0.**  
13

14 Article 14 Highway Equipment CRF \$265,000

15 **Bill Hanson made a motion seconded Ray Martin to recommend Article 14. Roll Call Vote:**  
16 **R. Bixby, A. Hanson, R. Blake, R. Martin, B. Hanson, H. Blanchette and F. Minton voted to**  
17 **recommend. Motion passed unanimously.**  
18

19 Article 15 Transfer Station CRF \$25,000

20 **Robert Blake made a motion seconded by Harold Blanchette to recommend Article 15. Roll Call**  
21 **Vote: R. Blake, R. Martin, H. Blanchette and F. Minton voted to recommend and R. Bixby,**  
22 **A. Hanson and B. Hanson voted not to recommend. Motion passed 4-3-0**  
23

24 Article 16 Transfer Station Equipment CRF \$25,000

25 **Harold Blanchette made a motion seconded by Ray Martin to recommend Article 16. Roll Call**  
26 **Vote: R. Bixby, A. Hanson, R. Blake, R. Martin, B. Hanson, H. Blanchette and F. Minton voted to**  
27 **recommend. Motion passed unanimously.**  
28

29 Article 17 Firefighters Equipment CRF \$35,000

30 **Robert Blake made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to recommend Article 17. Roll Call Vote:**  
31 **R. Bixby, A. Hanson, R. Blake, R. Martin, B. Hanson, H. Blanchette and F. Minton voted to**  
32 **recommend. Motion passed unanimously.**  
33

34 Article 18 Fire Rescue Vehicle CRF \$100,000

35 **Bill Hanson made a motion seconded by Ray Martin to recommend Article 18.**

36 **Discussion on Article 18:** Alfred Hanson question the effect this would have on the replacement schedule,  
37 Robert Blake stated that is would cause a delay in the replacement schedule.

38 **Roll Call Vote: R. Bixby, A. Hanson, R. Blake, R. Martin, B. Hanson, H. Blanchette and F. Minton**  
39 **voted to recommend. Motion passed unanimously.**  
40

41 Article 19 Property Reval CRF \$40,000

42 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Harold Blanchette to recommend Article 19. Roll Call**  
43 **Vote: R. Bixby, R. Blake, B. Hanson, R. Martin, H. Blanchette, F. Minton voted to recommend and**  
44 **A. Hanson voted not to recommend. Motion passed 6-1-0.**  
45

46 Article 20 Contingency Fund \$20,000 from the unassigned fund balance not from taxation.

47 **Robert Blake made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson to recommend Article 20. Roll Call Vote:**  
48 **R. Bixby, A. Hanson, R. Blake, R. Martin, B. Hanson, H. Blanchette and F. Minton voted to**  
49 **recommend. Motion passed unanimously.**

1 Article 21 Employee Expendable Trust Fund \$40,000 from the unassigned fund balance not from  
2 taxation. **Ray Martin made a motion seconded by Harold Blanchette to recommend Article 21.**  
3 **Roll Call Vote: R. Blake, R. Martin, H. Blanchette and F. Minton voted to recommend and**  
4 **B. Hanson, A. Hanson and R. Bixby voted not to recommend. Motion passed 4-3-0.**  
5

6 Article 22 Warner Community Center CRF \$20,000  
7 *Discussion:* It was questioned what and how the money can be spent. It was determined that the article  
8 can be amended on the floor if needed.  
9 **Rick Bixby made a motion seconded by Bill Hanson to recommend Article 22. Roll Call Vote:**  
10 **R. Blake, R. Martin and F. Minton voted to recommend and R. Bixby, A. Hanson, B. Hanson and H.**  
11 **Blanchette voted not to recommend. Motion Failed 3-4-0.**  
12

13 Mike Cutting stated the estimated tax rate would be \$11.79 and in the fall the Select Board has the ability  
14 to use the fund balance to offset the tax rate.  
15

16 **Final Review of Warner Village Water District Budget**

17 2025 Operating Budget \$540,215.

18 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Harold Blanchette to recommend the Warner Village**  
19 **Water District operating budget in the amount of \$540,215. Roll Call Vote: H. Blanchette,**  
20 **F. Minton, B. Hanson, R. Blake, A. Hanson, R. Bixby and R. Martin voted to recommend. Motion**  
21 **passed unanimously.**  
22

23 2025 Proposed Revenue \$540,220

24 **Rick Bixby made a motion seconded by Harold Blanchette to put forward the Warner Village**  
25 **Water District proposed revenue in the amount of \$540,220. Roll Call Vote: H. Blanchette,**  
26 **F. Minton, B. Hanson, R. Blake, A. Hanson, R. Bixby and R. Martin in the affirmative. Motion**  
27 **passed unanimously.**  
28

29 Warrant Articles: To raise and appropriate up to \$20 million dollars for testing engineering construction of  
30 a treatment plant upgrade and authorize the issuance of up to \$20 million dollars of bonds and or notes.  
31 **Rick Bixby made a motion seconded by Harold Blanchette to put forward the Warner Village**  
32 **Water District warrant article to raise and appropriate up to \$20 million dollars for testing**  
33 **engineering construction of a treatment plant upgrade and authorize the issuance of up to \$20**  
34 **million dollars of bonds or notes. Roll Call Vote: R. Bixby, A. Hanson, R. Blake, F. Minton and R.**  
35 **Martin voted to recommend. B. Hanson voted not to recommend. Vote passed 6-1-0.**  
36

37 **Harold Blanchette made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson to put forward the Warner Village**  
38 **Water District operating budget in the amount of \$540,215. Roll Call Vote: H. Blanchette,**  
39 **F. Minton, B. Hanson, R. Blake, A. Hanson, R. Bixby and R. Martin voted in the affirmative.**  
40 **Motion passed unanimously.**  
41

42 **Adjournment**

43 **Ray Martin made a motion seconded by Harold Blanchette to adjourn the Budget Committee**  
44 **meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

45 **Faith Minton made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to adjourn the Select Board meeting.**  
46 **Motion passed unanimously.**  
47

48 The meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM  
49

- 1 Respectfully submitted on 2/11/25 by Tracy Doherty
- 2 Edited by Darcie Buskey, Assistant Clerk

DRAFT