

## MINUTES

### Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen Meeting

Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 6:30 PM

In-Person Session at the Great Hall 2nd Floor, 9 Union St. Wolfeboro

#### 6:30 PM-Regular Session

**BoS members Present:** Mr. Harriman, David Senecal, Linda Murray, Luke Freudenberg, Brian Deshaies

**Staff:** James Pineo. Steve Randall, director DPW; Kathryn Carpentier, finance director; Thomas Zotti, chief, Wolfeboro Fire Department.

**Chairman Brad Harriman calls meeting to order.** Is there a need for Non-Public Session RSA 91-A: 3?

**Mr. Pineo:** Yes, pending litigation and employment.

#### 1. Consideration of Minutes

i. December 6, 2023 Regular Meeting

**Mrs. Murray:** Page 10 – Under ‘Operating budget won’t be ready for a few weeks;’ third time Mrs. Murray speaks – second sentence should say ‘assume we’ll add those same conditions;’ take out ‘out.’

Page. 19: (typo to correct) Mr. Harriman is speaking the second time: ‘I agree with most .. needs signs and a 10-foot “BUFFER,” (not bugger)

Page 21- Under public comment – Suzanne Ryan is speaking; then says Mrs. Murray: Should say – ‘Bridge Falls Path’ not Willow Street.

#### **MOTION to approve as amended Mrs. Murray; Second Mr. Senecal Approved 5-0**

ii. December 18, 2023 Special Meeting

**Mrs. Murray:** Page 1- first paragraph after review and sign; ninth line down – starts with “He explained;” I would like it to read – “He explained that this is a timing issue between the town paying the expenses in 2022 and agreed upon July 31, 2023 payment from the Friends of Pop Whalen. He noted that it was NOT caught by staff, board or bond counsel.” Then that will read correctly.

#### **MOTION to approve as amended Mr. Freudenberg; Second Mrs. Murray. Approved 5-0**

#### 2. Public Hearing(s)

##### *Unanticipated Funds*

i. The Town of Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen shall hold a public hearing on January 3, 2024, at their meeting that starts at 6:30 P.M., in the Great Hall of the Town Hall located at 9 Union Street Wolfeboro, pursuant to NH RSA 31:95-b III (a), relative to donation of funds in the amount of \$1,000 from the Charitable Fund, Wolfeboro Fund for the Pop Whalen Scholarship Fund.

*[Mrs. Murray steps down.]*

**Victor Drouin:** president Friends of Pop Whalen: Reviewing grants for the arena and center renovation work, we found that the center is not open and accessible to everybody. Back Bay, Pop Whalen and Abenaki have some programs allowing some accessibility; wanted more broad accessibility to everyone in the community. Created criteria; submitted and funded the scholarship fund for anyone who has the need for equipment, tuition, etc. on a needs-based level.

**Mr. Harriman:** Who will handle reviewing criteria or applicants for assistance?

**Mr. Drouin:** Mrs. Carpentier received the funds to manage; Tom Roberts, our board treasurer – he is on the Josiah Brown Scholarship Trust. This is separate from town welfare. The idea is a committee of 3-4 needs to be established to review the applications and approve or deny the dollar amount.

**Mr. Harriman:** Opens the public hearing for comments.

**Mrs. Carpentier,** town finance director: clarifies establishment of the fund and an escrow account with the \$500 donation to this fund. Money would be separate from other funds and the custodian is the treasurer; this \$1000 would be added to that account with the \$500.

**Suzanne Ryan:** Is this exclusive for Pop Whalen or is the scholarship fund for Abenaki, hockey programs, etc.? What is the name of the fund and when established?

**Mr. Harriman:** Not sure when it was established. This fund being set up for those who would want to participate in the use the entire Abenaki ski downhill area; cross country skiing or the Pop Whalen Ice and Arts Arena – the entire complex.

**Mr. Deshaies:** The name is the Pop Whalen – Abenaki Scholarship Fund.

**Mr. Drouin:** Yes. Back Bay Hockey has its own scholarship fund for aid. Other activities at Pop or Abenaki – my belief that this would fall under this new fund.

**Mr. Deshaies:** An example would be a family could get a season pass to ski.

**Mr. Drouin:** yes.

**Mr. Harriman:** No other comments? Closes the public hearing.

**MOTION by Mr. Deshaies to accept donation of funds in the amount of \$1,000 from the Charitable Fund, Wolfeboro Fund for the Pop Whalen Scholarship Fund. This is a new fund to assist in helping someone if the cannot afford to skate/ski at the Abenaki complex. Second Mr. Freudenberg. Approved 4-0. [Mrs. Murray stepped down.**

ii. The Town of Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen shall hold a public hearing on January 3, 2024, at their meeting that starts at 6:30 P.M., in the Great Hall of the Town Hall located at 9 Union Street Wolfeboro, pursuant to NH RSA 31:95-b III (a), accept a donation in the amount of \$ 19,493.32 from the Friends of Abenaki for the purchase of snowmaking equipment.

**Bill Swaffield:** Friends of Abenaki: Since 2005-6, Friends have donated \$1 million+ over the years to keep snowmaking operations underway. The company – HKD Snowmakers in MA, has given us new equipment to try/test as demos – and then discount them if we want to buy the equipment. This is the third winter we've used these five viper guns – paying for them now; we did get the [number unintelligible] % discount they're offering. These small snow-guns can get into smaller areas to groom the trails. Easier for groomer and staff running the groomer. This is a good purchase – since they've been used for two winters already – going into the third winter. Mr. Swaffield is making the donation. Actual amount on the invoice you have from HKD was \$19,315; I checked with Amy and was OK to make the change in the amount.

Announcing tonight, major trouble with the snow groomer – purchased for the town in 2006 – had been used by Cranmore for at least 6 years prior. We'll have to raise a lot of money for a new, used groomer or a new one after the season. The groomer is not working right now and they are working on it. Wanted to let the public know about this issue. I would like to present the check.

**Mr. Harriman** opens the public hearing. No comments; He closes the hearing.

**MOTION by Mr. Deshaies to accept a donation in the amount of \$ 19,315 from the Friends of Abenaki for the purchase of snowmaking equipment. Second Mr. Freudenberg. Approved 5-0.**

*Mr. Swaffield presents check to Mr. Pineo - with thanks from BoS.*

### ***Bond Hearing***

A Public Hearing will be held by the Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen as required by RSA 33:8-a and RSA 40:13 at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, January 03, 2024, to receive comments on the proposed 2024 bond issues over \$100,000: Inclement weather time and date: 6:30 PM January 10, 2024. **Location:**

**84 South Main Street – Great Hall at Wolfeboro Town Hall**

1. For the 2023 Bond Issue not to exceed \$1,200,000 for the purpose of the Port Wedeln Drainage.

**Mr. Pineo:** Bond approved in 2022; however, as the engineering developed on the project, the proposed solution would not be adequate; the system was redesigned by Stantec; presentations in July made recommendations; there were site visits by BoS , Stantec, state officials and meetings with the Port Wedeln association.

*[See attached BOND slides referred to by Mr. Pineo + Mr. Randall]*

**Mr. Pineo: SLIDE** - Proposed article - refers to the proposed article Port Wedeln Drainage Upgrade (additional funding) – up to \$1.2 million; Next slide - refers to 2022 Article 14 for Port Wedeln drainage upgrades.

**Steve Randall**, director DPW:

Outlines what has happened with the project and 2022 funding approval

- Original design was inadequate and it was reengineering this past summer
- Aim is to stop storm runoff and pollution into Winter Harbor
- Keep storm runoff into the town right-of-way instead of over the sides through private land.
- Sub watershed study done; Worked with association and Stantec on the plan to get this done properly
- Working on the permitting; then will do the easements.
- We've applied for additional RSF funding and ARPA (federal) grants; working on extending existing funding that would be approved here; then at town meeting.
- With approval at the March vote, bids would go out with construction in the fall for fall-winter construction after the summer season.
- Slide - Port Wedeln Drainage upgrades -original plan - depicts the drainage upgrades; all to improve Port Wedeln drainage and protect the lake from runoff.
- Originally planned 18-24 inch pipes.
- Heavy rains overflow into the road and runs down the hill; washes out the beach at Port Wedeln and ends up in the lake.
- now planned for 36" pipe in some places; with manholes to slow down water flow and distribute the water pressure.
- Funding (slide) – last year's funding plus an additional \$769,710 to bring total to \$1.2 million.

**Mr. Pineo:** Adds that correspondence continues with Port Wedeln Association representatives here; paperwork with the state DES needs to be signed in conjunction with town and Stantec; project continues to move forward; draft MOU has been prepared for signing prior to the contract signings, following passage of the warrant article. That would outline how the Port Wedeln Association would come forward; We are still in negotiation about how they would come forward.

**Mr. Harriman** opens the public hearing.

**Tom Tobine:** represents Port Wedeln residents – and other residents in the audience. We have been at this a while. Had another complete washout in December – again; waterfront in bad shape. This project will prevent more waterfront damage to association property. Hope for repair as soon as possible; it's expensive. We have been working with the town about 10 years on this problem; Traction in the project happened five years ago; expresses gratitude. We are willing to do what it takes to get this project completed.

During the heavy rains, people go out to unclog storm drains; they did that this past storm, but the drainage clogged again in December and got worse.

**Mr. Deshaies:** When will the association have a plan on what you will pay toward the project – over what increment and time period?

**Mr. Tobine:** We were putting money up for betterments: such repaving driveway – that's a betterment; we were going to get golf cart parking area improved. Still talking with Stantec and others to expand golf cart parking. We would be opening that space up; but now it's closed – and a smaller area. We're putting up \$100,000; paving of the hill does not cost that. So we want to know what betterments we'll get when the job is finished even though the problem will go away when the project is finished. The problem is the roadway system; is that a betterment for us?

**Mr. Deshaies:** We have 26 culverts on a half mile of road in our private association. We have water-drainage issues. If the town were going to come in and fix the drainage, I'd give them a \$100,000 check tomorrow. My opinion.

**Mr. Tobine:** The MOU is a draft; we based our calculations for income statement on that MOU – 30% and 10% thereafter until the balance is paid. That has not been figured out yet – how to give town those funds.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Over a 10-year period based on the time-value of money, the last 10% will be worth 50-60% of what the first payment is. This is something the town needs to consider. The money will be worth less.

**Mr. Tobine:** Then it should have been in the MOU. Suggests a schedule in the MOU would be considered. We were going to put in \$100,000 for betterments. I'm not paying for a percentage of the job – I'm paying for the improvements.

**Cara Brunetta:** lives on Earl Shore – private roadway/not part of Port Wedeln Association – Everything that comes down the hill – I have to repair myself. Please consider this – the association and beach is not the only damage. I have a dry well that has to be cleaned out. Asks that the BoS consider all the private properties/owners in that area, too.

**Janet Fanel:** current president of Port Wedeln Association; keep perspective on the lake. Stuff/stormwater that runs all the way from 109 into the lake is not good for all of Wolfeboro. That pristine lake is being polluted. Lived there 30 years – and have never seen runoff like this. Increased dramatically. It's our property and the lake being damaged. We're trying to put up as much funding as we can. Had not planned on paying \$100,000 for a drainage project 10-years ago. We are trying to come up with a reasonable solution for everyone. We want to do something – within reason, Our homeowners were not expecting to have to pay anything to protect our waterfront from Mother Nature.

**Mr. Deshaies:** I understand; we have Sewall Woods and streams in our 19-home association; concerned about septic systems too close to the streams. Collect \$1200 a year from owners to manage our common leech fields, streetlights, paved roads, plowing/tree removal, etc. I understand; water and electric systems, too.

**Ms. Fanel:** I am sympathetic to your plight. The Port Wedeln Roads are town of Wolfeboro roads.

**Mrs. Murray:** Reason we held this up was the severity of a 10-year storm – instead of a project to withstand a one-year storm. Protecting the lake from a 10-year storm is what this project is about. Slowing down the water flowing down; installing more catch basins We are with you – that the lake is important on this whole thing.

**Jody Persson:** resident; fishes in Winter Harbor. States it is an important project. He hopes the project is over-engineered for the intense storms. Has witnessed Winter Harbor water damage during his fishing in the harbor.

**Bobbi Boudman,** resident: Questions association contribution for betterments and extending parking for golf carts. Asking taxpayers for approval when a project includes betterments is concerning and could kill a warrant article. Get the money up front for the project so we're not in the same situation as with the Pop Whalen project where we have \$568,000 that has not been donated to the town for that project.

**Suzanne Ryan:** Bond was initially approved in 2022 – at what rate; and what is the proposed bond rate for 2024?

**Mr. Pineo:** It's my understanding these are state revolving loan fund rate is 2%.

**Mrs. Murray:** These are not loans that are forgiven – am I correct?

**Mr. Pineo:** In the original proposal there was loan forgiveness that was contemplated; Stantec working with state; not sure if there is anymore loan forgiveness being contemplated. Steve?

**Mr. Randall:** Maybe - Not finalized yet.

**Mrs. Murray:** Nothing will be finalized unless the warrant article passes, right?

**Mr. Randall:** Now we have the existing finance plan. That expires May 2024. We have to final an extension; in order to have the extension, we need the authority to borrow the extra money; this has to go through.

**Mrs. Murray:** If the warrant article passes; you get the extension to the earlier project and then at some point, we'll know the full cost of the project in terms of percentage?

**Mr. Randall:** Correct. And I'd like to address the question about engineering of the project - It's not over-engineered – it's properly engineered; what used to be a 10-year storm is now – today – a one-to-five-year storm. Which is why we went from a 24" to a 36" pipe; added in the catch basins and the drops down through to compensate for that.

**Mrs. Murray:** In your design, we're not paying for golf cart parking, right?

**Mr. Randall:** That came about in the past few weeks. A note from NHDES, is golf cart parking was going on the left down the hill [ by beach area]. Because of property line and buffer needed, that is now rip rap to cover erosion off to the side. What was going to be paved parking area for the carts; it's now rip-rapped or considered 'green' area.

**Mrs. Murray:** I want to be sure the public understands – in this proposed article and project, there's no payment to create golf-cart parking spots.

**Mr. Randall:** No: what is paved now is going to be part of the drainage process.

**Mr. Harriman:** Reading at the bottom of the 2022 warrant article – that the town has received NH Department of Environmental Services, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant of \$199,000 for this project. That grant is not required to be paid back. Other questions/comments? Closes the public hearing.

**Mrs. Murray:** This is a very important project. Wolfboro Waters has kept an eye on it. Mr. Deshaies and I have walked the area; we've seen the damage, pipe that goes out and the the silt in the docking area. Nutrients washing into the lake can lead to cyanobacteria outbreaks; it's important to combat erosion and repair and prevent damage to the roadway and protection and health of our lakes. I support moving forward with this project.

**Mr. Freudenberg:** I second that. And this might be the most important thing voters will consider this year. Winter Harbor and the lake are important resources. These are reasons people come here. The lake is changing; it's our job to protect the lake. As a town, this is a great representation of our ability to say we are really focused on this; we really care. It' will be an example to other communities and to the general public to be more aware of what they do on the lake; what they put on their lawns; and keep a vigilant eye on protecting our waterways.

**Mr. Deshaies:** My family has been involved with lake conservation for 40 years. Lake Winnepesaukee Days last year supported lake conservation with many conservation-related non-profits attended and displayed at the event. I am all for taking care of the lake. The town is also in a tough financial situation. We have a lot of debt and we will have a tax increase as we did in this second tax bill. Projects like this are not free. You will have to get the word out to friends, families, neighbors that part of the reason taxes are going up is because we are doing necessary and useful things like this.

**Mr. Harriman:** We did recognize in 2022 that the original project design would not meet the desired effects at Port Wedeln. We got another engineering firm to look at Port Wedeln and came up with a better design that should take care of the Port Wedeln stormwater drainage project. This is a more appropriate plan. The association did its homework. We came up with a better and more appropriate plan.

**Mr. Deshaies:** urged Port Wedeln to start a fundraising group.

**Mrs. Murray:** Hopes that before the deliberative session we have more information on the loan.

**Mr. Harriman:** Next step needs to move to warrant; decide on a 10 or 20 year bond and vote on bond article and recommend.

**MOTION Mrs. Murray to move this article to the warrant. Second Mr. Freudenberg. Approved 5-0.**

**MOTION Mrs. Murray to recommend this article. Second Mr. Freudenberg. Approved 5-0.**

**Mr. Pineo:** says Stantec will have more details by the deliberative session. This was originally a 10-year project at \$400,000; now we are looking at a significantly higher loan. I hope to have that information for the recording of the warrant articles.

**MOTION Mrs. Murray that the project does not move forward on construction until we have all easements in hand and the MOU with the Port Wedeln Association is signed. Second Mr. Freudenberg. Approved 5-0.**

**Mr. Harriman:** When do you want the decision on the 10 or 20-year bond?

**Mr. Pineo:** We don't need to have that any time soon.

**Mr. Harriman:** That part will be on hold, then.

### ***Fee Schedule change***

The Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at their meeting that starts at 6:30 PM at 9 Union Street, Great Hall Wolfeboro Town Hall to consider increasing the Solid Waste Disposal Facility Fee Schedule.

**Mr. Pineo:** Steve Randall has recommended fees at Solid Waste be raised – did that at the last meeting. Memo from Steve to BoS outlines his proposal as discussed at the last meeting.

**Mr. Randall:** We crunched the numbers – we need to

- increase demo rate to \$80 per yard; will cover full tipping fees.
- Dump stickers – increase from \$5 to \$20. Had conversations with Steve Steadman; he believes the increase should be to \$20. That extra money will generate revenue and help offset costs.
- Charge contractors \$20 fee for temporary permits for use of the facility; current temporary fee is \$1. The onus is on the contractors for use of the facility.
- Discussed charging the school district for tires/electronics dumping.
- Propose to keep the winter schedule at the Solid Waste Transfer Facility (The dump) year round – even in summer – Open five days, closed two days.

**Mr. Freudenberg:** Should we consider giving people one or two free bulk items a year – included with the \$20 dump sticker. That could work.

**Mr. Randall:** We could easily work that out in-house the board would OK some sort of freebie.

**Mr. Deshaies:** If you allow the bulk items and raise the sticker cost to \$20, you've just lost money. If everyone brings two bulk items to the station, you gave away money. And people would ask neighbors to take bulk items for them.

**Mr. Randall:** Valid point.

**Mr. Freudenberg:** Many people – like me, buy multiple dump stickers (for each vehicle);

**Mrs. Murray:** They may stop that now.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Proposes a phase-in of the dump sticker increase over three years. It hurts less.

**Mr. Randall:** We could jump from \$5 to \$20 with some minor changes: we would only lose \$125,000 next year – instead of \$227,000.

**Mrs. Murray:** "It's just coming out of another place; you're paying somewhere. You pay it in your taxes, or you pay a higher sticker cost for the dump. It makes sense for the larger items that people want to dispose of at the dump. We're paying one way or another.

**Mr. Randall:** If the dump sticker is raised to \$20 and a couple of bulk items are included per year, we would do that. But we'd be better off charging less for the stickers and charge for all bulk items people want to dispose of at the dump. At least we can record it better. And the people who are actually dumping the items pay versus all the taxpayers.

**Mrs. Murray:** Agrees that a phase in to maybe \$10 this year; then \$15 the next year.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Or \$10 to \$20 and get the money quicker. Double the sticker fee and double it again.

**Mr. Randall:** Goal is, as we upgrade the facility and equipment, we can recapture some of the 90s costs in house instead of outside services; we get control back and curb costs. All these are speculative numbers based on 6500 people; based on tonnage and how many visits to the dump. It's a best guesstimate.

**Mr. Freudenberg:** Getting a scale at the transfer station is key to improving. Alton and Wakefield have a scale; it's easy and not an argument.

**Mr. Randall:** That's a master Solid Waste Disposal Facility.

A lot of contractors take advantage of Wolfeboro's cheap dumping fee. Charging them \$20 and then if they're paying a fair rate for their disposal – they may decide to get their own dumpster – that's a win-win. We're not making money. We're just covering costs. If our demo numbers go down, I'm OK with that.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Contractors are coming here the dump because we're cheaper.

**Mr. Harriman:** I like concentrating on the demo and capturing the costs. Contractors are probably 80% of the demo.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Wishes there was a way to recycle vinyl siding that is dumped.

**Mr. Harriman:** Opens public hearing for questions/comments.

**Jody Persson,** Wolfeboro resident: Agrees raising cost of demo materials is OK.

**Mr. Harriman:** Reads other items on the proposed price guide- that will cost more to leave at the Solid Waste Facility:

- Shingles: up from \$45 to \$70
- Bulky items- such as sofas, mattresses – up from \$25 to \$50.
- Freon: up from \$10 to \$15 per unit.
- Electronics now \$5-\$40; up to \$10-\$45
- Tires: from \$4-15 – depending on size; to \$10-\$25
- Brush from \$8-\$15

**Mr. Persson:** Will Swap Shop come back? People miss the swap shop?

**Mr. Randall:** That has been discussed: people who were having to pay to dump and item were then leaving it at the swap shop. That happened more than 95% of the time with large items. The shop was becoming a dumping ground and costing more money. No plan to bring that back.

**Mr. Deshaies:** How long since these fees were updated?

**Mr. Randall:** Steve Steadman has been here 17 years – these are the same rates since he has been here.

**Mr. Persson:** Suggests maybe volunteers could take care of the swap shop.

**Bobbi Boudman:** Suggests organizing a swap shop a few times a year. There were more than vacuum cleaners.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Suggests people go to Facebook Marketplace on the community pages where items are given away free.

**Suzanne Ryan:** What is state permit for – is it strictly residential or is there commercial allowance for disposal – the disposal permit? Is the state license to run the transfer station for residential or commercial?

**BoS members reply – both.**

**Mrs. Ryan:** Believes residential users should not bear the cost of increased transfer station costs. Believes \$20 for a residential sticker is too much; believes that is double-taxing the residents. Asks about shingles from a roof job.

**Mr. Harriman:** The plan is an increase from \$45 per cubic yard to dump to \$70 per cubic yard.

**Mr. Deshaies:** proposes an elderly exemption; but says people may 'game' the system.

**Mr. Randall:** Commercial trash disposal companies pay five-times as much as residential users.

**Mrs. Ryan:** Fears people will illegally dump trash if cost of sticker goes up too high.

**Mr. Randall:** Residents are going to pay one way or another.

**Mr. Freudenberg:** \$10 is good; [Mrs. Murray agrees].

**Mr. Randall:** The actual sticker costs the town \$.33 each.

**Mr. Pineo:** Notes in his former town he paid \$2.50 a bag to dump trash.

**Mr. Harriman:** Closes the public hearing.

**Mr. Randall:** *Clarifies new 2024 rate structure as Mr. Deshaies begins to make motion.*

**MOTION by Mr. Deshaies to accept rate structure for Wolfeboro Solid Waste Facility and Transfer Station with stickers for residents \$10 each; demo costing \$80; shingles costing \$90 (cubic yard); bulky items \$60; freon \$15; electronics \$10-\$45; tires \$10-25; brush dump \$15. Second Mrs. Murray.**

**Mr. Pineo:** Effective date?

**Mr. Randall:** Feb. 1; we have the stickers; we'll put them in place Feb. 1; we'll do new flyers and post on web sites for all to see.

## **APPROVED 5-0**

### **3. Bulk Vote**

- A. Weekly Manifests
  - i. December 22, 2023 \$ 650,426.76

- ii. December 29, 2023 \$ 8,696.46
- B. Property Tax Credit/Exemption
  - i. 4 Dove Street Tax Map 142 Lot 36
  - ii. 40 Village Corner Rd Tax Map 63 Lot 20
  - Action Taken: \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Property Tax Credit/ Exemption
  - I. South Main Street #12 2023 Tax Map 217 Lot 36 \$169
  - ii. 61 Haines Hill Rd #22 #11 2023 Tax Map 86 Lot 1-22 \$43
  - Intent to Cut Wood or Timber
  - i. Stoddard Rd Tax Map 35 Lot 7
- E. Raffle Permit:
  - i. Wolfeboro Children's Center- February 28, 2024

**MOTION Mrs. Murray to approve the bulk vote items A-E. Second Mr. Senecal. Approved 5-0.**

- 4. Board/Committee Appointments:  
N/A

**5. New Business**

**A. Approval: Managed IT Services Agreement & Phone Service Agreement**

**Kathryn Carpentier**, finance director and oversees town IT services for Wolfeboro: Requesting BoS approval for managed IT and phone services agreement with Block 5 Technologies, the managed IT services for Wolfeboro multiple years; phone services purchased two years ago. Prices steady unless there's a third party contract increase or increase the number of computers. Asks for bidding requirements be waived and authorize the town manager to sign the agreement as recommended.

**Mrs. Murray:** When was the last time we went out to bid on the managed IT services?

**Mrs. Carpentier:** In the three years I have been here, we have not gone out to bid on these services.

**Mrs. Murray:** I'm OK for this year; but we should go out to bid on it? Each agreement – IT and phone services to have a comparison. Does not make sense to keep waiving the bidding process.

**Mrs. Carpentier** asks Mr. Pineo when the Block 5 contracts went out to bid last.

**Mr. Pineo:** It was before me.

**Mrs. Carpentier:** Next year, we'll put that on the agenda.

**MOTION by Mrs. Murray to approve the managed IT and phone services agreements with Block 5 Technologies with bidding requirements waived; authorizing the town manager to sign the recommended agreements. Second Mr. Deshaies. Approved 5-0.**

**B. Approval: Investment Policy FIN-003**

**Mrs. Carpentier:** we review this policy annually. No recommended changes. Treasurer reviews the policy and makes investments. Asks for approval of Investment Policy FIN-003- revision 00 with no changes as recommended by the finance director.

**Mr. Harriman:** Questions from the board? [none]

**MOTION by Mrs. Murray to approve Investment Policy FIN-003- revision 00 with no changes as recommended by the finance director. Second Mr. Deshaies. Approved 5-0.**

**Mrs. Murray:** notes for the public the policy is reviewed and changes had been made in the past.

**Mrs. Carpentier** notes changes were made 12-29-22; no changes made since.



**C. Approval: Fund Balance Policy**

**Mr. Deshaies:** Reads 2002 [petition] warrant article: *to see if the town will vote to affirm a 2002 warrant article, 16 Surplus policy; each year the town shall reduce the surplus general fund undesignated fund balance carried over from the prior year, to the amount, no greater than 10% of the operating budget voted the current year by applying the excess as fund balance to reduce taxes and further said amount to reduce taxes shall be affirmed, disclosed and by the Board of Selectmen at a regular board meeting.*

Asks if town counsel should review this and make sure this aligns with current policy?

**Mrs. Carpentier:** That's BoS prerogative. That is not usually done for a petition warrant article. I checked the middle of that 2002 warrant article – the same one that was prior to that. Problem is it states '10% of the operating budget.' That includes electric, water, sewer; we're never going to hit that 10%.

**Mr. Deshaies:** reiterates counsel should look at it to see if there are any contradictions or anything that needs to be cleaned up.

**Mrs. Carpentier:** You do not change petition warrant articles.

**Mr. Deshaies:** We could have a new petition warrant article.

**Mr. Pineo:** Petition warrant articles are advisory; it does set up BoS, KC and I can review fund policy and make a recommendation to the board for formal adoption. If numbers/percentages need to be addressed, we can do that. Not a big issue to get this taken care of.

**Mrs. Carpentier:** Asking for no recommended changes; this was created August 2022. Based on DRA recommendations – 5%-17% based on general fund minus water, sewer, bond items. They say get between 5% and 17%. That is before you now. We can entertain changes. There are two parts to that petition warrant article. The other part indicates if some of the fund balance is to be used that it be brought to the BoS in a public meeting. That has been the past practice of the board. If fund balance were to be used, the board would approve to use it for the tax rate.

**Mrs. Carpentier:** Does not need review; it states – an annual review – so 'compliance with the provisions of this policy shall be reviewed annually.'

**If you want to reaffirm the fund balance policy number FIN-007 – as written.**

**MOTION by Mr. Freudenberg to reaffirm the fund balance policy number FIN-007 – as written. Second Mr. Senecal. Approved. 5-0.**

**Mrs. Murray:** I'm kind of with Brian; my understanding – if we pass this, we can review if that petition warrant article passes. Based on the 2002 petition warrant article, this policy is in compliance with that 10%.

**Mrs. Carpentier:** correct.

**Mrs. Murray:** We're following the policy based on what is written. I'm comfortable realizing we can review it if the petition warrant article passes.

**Mr. Harriman:** correct.

**APPROVED 5-0.**

**D. Approval: 2024 Warrant Articles**

**Mr. Pineo** [refers to SLIDES for each warrant article] A few warrant articles for removal:

1. Article – removed - Library Landscaping Reauthorization

Library trustees and our counsel agreed to remove the warrant article.

2. Article – removed - Library Solar project

3. Article removed: Used Ambulance Purchase: talked with Chief Zotti – recommending we pull this article from the 2024 warrant; new warrant article in place.

**Mrs. Murray:** Maybe we discuss this showing support or not. Future will bring more discussion; a lot of time spent since summer about Wolfeboro fire department operating its own ambulance service which continued into the fall with staffing, costs, etc. – including Town

Manager recommendations; including hiring a third party to review the used ambulance/town-run ambulance plan. That is why we are moving in that direction.

**Mr. Pineo:** Agrees.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Notes a study could show cost for a used ambulance could go higher than the original \$100,000 cost.

**Mr. Pineo:** (as a result of removing earlier proposed article)

- Article- [Slide – **Ambulance Service Evaluation**] to raise \$20,000 for a third party consultant to evaluate whether town should operate a fire-rescue department-based ambulance service – or maintain contracted ambulance services. Tax rate impact: \$.01 per \$1000 assessed valuation.

Goal was to have consultant evaluating ambulance program by end of 2023. Town budget condition prohibited this action. Asking for funds to get the evaluation by an independent consultant; then present a plan by summer 2024.

**Mr. Harriman:** Will \$20,000 be enough?

**Mr. Pineo:** Yes.

**Mrs. Murray:** Will study evaluate staffing and weekly hours for staff?

**Mr. Pineo:** Yes. All that will be included in order to be transparent to voters/citizens.

**Mr. Harriman:** Ask for motion to move the article to the warrant.

**MOTION by Mr. Senecal to move the Ambulance Service Evaluation article to the warrant. Second Mr. Freudenberg. Approved 4-1. [Mr. Deshaies votes no.]**

**MOTION by Mrs. Murray to recommend the Ambulance Service Evaluation article. Second Mr. Senecal. Approved 4-1. . [Mr. Deshaies votes no.]**

**Mr. Pineo:** [slide] Article- **Wolfeboro Historical Society lease** – 20-year lease for Clark Museum Complex, S. Main Street. Effective July 30, 2026. Tax rate impact- None.

Received map outlining square footage and captured intent of historical society; answered some questions posed by Mrs. Murray.

**Mrs. Murray:** Is there a finished lease?

**Mr. Pineo:** Has copies in folder – and it's nearly finished – mapping still to be finalized. And will get this to the BoS.

**Mrs. Murray:** OK.

**MOTION by Mr. Deshaies to move the Wolfeboro Historical Society lease article to the warrant. Second Mr. Freudenberg. Approved 5-0.**

**MOTION by Mrs. Murray to recommend the Wolfeboro Historical Society lease article. Second Mr. Senecal. Approved 5-0.**

**Mr. Pineo:** [slide] Bingo article: approving bingo and sale of Lucky 7 tickets.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Is this 55+ bingo or can they bring others who are younger?

**Mr. Pineo:** Younger people can join; but cannot actively participate.

**Mrs. Murray:** The statute does not say seniors – so you're fine. This will OK bingo games for anyone in town.

**Mr. Pineo:** Parks and recreation wants to run seniors bingo.

**Mrs. Murray:** Yes, and when passed, another organization could run a bingo game. Anyone could run a bingo game.

**Mr. Pineo:** Yes.

**MOTION by Mr. Freudenberg to move the bingo article to warrant. Second Mr. Senecal. Approved 5-0.**

**MOTION by Mr. Senecal to recommend the bingo article. Second Mr. Freudenberg, Approved 5-0.**

**Mr. Pineo:** [slide] Pop Whalen Ice & Arts Center – Locker Room Leases: extension of 5-year lease to 40-year leases for Back Bay Hockey Association; Kingswood Hockey; Brewster Hockey. No tax rate impact.

*[Mrs. Murray steps down]*

**Mr. Deshaies:** How are locker rooms scheduled for the hockey organizations?

**Victor Drouin,** president Friends of Pop Whalen: explains history of arena renovations and Pop Whalen involvement from 2019-2021. Friends would pay \$2.7 million toward the project with \$2.2 from the Friends; Brewster and Kingswood Hockey groups would pay \$250,000 each = \$500,000; Four locker rooms built for flow- home and away rooms; with two more locker rooms available. MOUs were not completed for the rooms so there was no exclusivity – from last January until Jan. 2024. Talks had taken place with town attorney, town manager and hockey groups to work out these 40-year leases. Now the 5-year agreements in place. Friends of Pop Whalen has paid the town \$2.25 million; we owe \$458,000, I believe. This warrant article would mean collecting the additional \$500,000 as pledged by the Friends of Pop Whalen – cost of the locker room leases – this is the balance. This is a critical fundraising piece. Does not impact taxpayer; facility flow not impacted. Provides established exclusivity for the hockey organizations; and they have to maintain the locker rooms.

Back Bay Hockey has non-exclusive use for one locker room.

**Mr. Deshaies:** clarifies the \$250,000 paid by a hockey organization was not for locker room fit-out – it is for construction of the building in that space.

**Mr. Drouin:** Talking with hockey organizations – Kingswood and Brewster – established measurements of locker rooms and costs; took square footage = \$257 a square foot. That's where numbers came from.

Official called license agreements – this gives these hockey groups 40-year locker room access for \$250,000. They agreements reviewed annually.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Should Brewster do its own hockey rink or suspend hockey plan? What happens?

**Mr. Drouin:** It's in writing - License agreements are reviewed annually. If a program leaves, the space/locker room would revert back to the town.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Would there be a cost to the town?

**Mr. Drouin:** No. It's town property and license agreements. Town counsel weighed in on this.

**Mr. Pineo:** A license agreement is easier to break than a lease. If a group breaks the agreement, they lose their \$250,000?

**Mr. Drouin:** correct. The organization could remove anything they paid for inside the locker room and leave in its original condition. I believe in the agreement that is covered. This has been looked at for four years.

**Mr. Harriman:** Has this been reviewed by town attorney?

**Mr. Pineo:** Yes.

**Mr. Harriman:** questions 5-year agreement length vs. 40-year.

**Mr. Pineo:** Board can only approve up to five year lease/license agreement. Beyond that it has to go to the voters.

**MOTION by Mr. Freudenberg to move the Pop Whalen Ice & Arts Center – Locker Room Leases article to the warrant. Second Mr. Deshaies. Approved 4-0. [Mrs. Murray stepped down]**

**MOTION by Mr. Deshaies to recommend the Pop Whalen Ice & Arts Center – Locker Room Leases article. Second Mr. Freudenberg. Approved 4-0. [Mrs. Murray stepped down]**

**Mr. Harriman:** End of warrant articles.

**Mr. Pineo:** We do have one petition warrant article. The deadline for petition warrant articles is January 9, 2024, 4 p.m. BoS meeting is scheduled Jan. 9, 5 p.m. if there is one.

**E. Discussion: 2023 Annual Town Report bid award-Country Press Inc.**

**Mr. Pineo:** Next item – bid for 2023 town report; same vendor that has been used and is recommended.

**Mr. Harriman:** Three bids received: Low bid recommended by Amy Capone-Muccio.

- Country Press: \$3300 – done the town annual report last two or three years; uses large print format
- RC Brayshaw - \$3653
- Select Print Solutions - \$3669

**MOTION by Mr. Senecal to approve Country Press bid [\$3300] to produce the 2023 Annual Town Report. Second Mrs. Murray. Approved 5-0.**

**F. Approval: 2024 Budget Review if necessary**

**Mr. Pineo:** Item to discuss: Budget Committee asked to potentially break out ambulance service contract with Stewart's Ambulance for 2024 into a stand-alone warrant article or the differential of the 2023 amounts to the 2024 contract. Talked with town counsel on that. Legal recommended we keep the ambulance contract in the proposed budget. If we pull out the differential – and the voters turn down the article, then we have no funding for ambulance service. If it stays in the operating budget and the operating budget fails, we do have a mechanism to go to a special town meeting to get a budget passed or look elsewhere in the budget - and it would hurt – for ambulance service funding. That summarizes the topic.

**Mr. Harriman:** If we ended in a default budget, we'd have the same amount from 2023 for contracted ambulance service - \$280,000?

**Mr. Pineo:** yes \$280,000; we'd be a quarter through 2024, paying at higher increment and we'd have to make budget decisions to fund the budget or go to special town meeting.

**Mrs. Murray:** Reads from at NH Municipal Association basic budgeting book – “special meetings may be called by the government body as a result of a board vote to do so; or to respond to a citizens' petition for a special meeting under RSA 39:1 and RSA 39:3. However, money cannot be appropriated at a special town or district meeting unless either 50% of all the voters on the checklist attend the meeting; or the Superior Court grants permission for the meeting.”

It's not very likely we'll get 50% of voters on the checklist to attend a special meeting. And it says “emergency definition” – because when you go to Superior Court you have to declare it is an emergency. “Emergency is a sudden and unexpected situation or occurrence or a combination of occurrence of a serious and urgent nature that demands prompt, immediate action, including an immediate expenditure of money. This definition, however, does not establish the requirement that an emergency involves a crisis in every set of circumstances. The Superior Court will consider several factors in determining whether the request for a special meeting shall be granted and any petition to the court seeking a special meeting shall address these factors:

- Severity of the harm to be avoided
- Urgency of the petitioner's need whether the claim emergency was foreseeable and avoidable [I think that's one we could have trouble with]
- Whether the appropriation could have been made in an annual meeting
- Whether there's an alternative remedy not requiring any appropriation.”

I don't think it's a slam dunk that we could do that. And I looked at RSA 32:10:1e which refers to no-means no. If we put this out as a warrant article and it was voted down, we were done. There's be no ambulance service that year.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Refers to town of Croyden, NH when school budget was cut in half; then a special election led to overturning of the BoS previous vote. This was two years ago.

**Mrs. Murray:** reiterates needing 50% of voters on the checklist is needed; or go to Superior Court. I read the criteria.

**Mr. Harriman:** I have been riding the fence on the issue. Thought a warrant article originally discussed was a good idea to reduce the budget by \$700,000 and let the voters decide. I thought voters would support a town-run ambulance service. It would be a measuring stick for town support. Town attorneys stated no-means no – we'd have no way to fund ambulance service in town.

**Mrs. Murray:** I drafted an article to see what an article might say: "To see if the town would vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$750,000 for the purpose of contracting with Stewart's Ambulance Service to provide to provide all the town's ambulance service ins 2024 with two ambulances, 24/7, 365." It would have to be worded something like that, for the voterse to understand.

**Mr. Deshaies:** If we had one ambulance already in the default budget, wouldn't we have to appropriate only one more ambulance and fill the rest of the contract?

**Mrs. Murray:** We could have other options. This just gives us a feeling for how a warrant could be worded. If we could get 50% of the voters to vote for something like this is the question. If no-means no – and we lost. I do not know how we'd deal with it.,

**Mr. Deshaies:** Agree. But if there was already one ambulance at \$275,000 and we need to get another \$475,000 in a warrant article to pay Stewart's for the second fulltime ambulance.

**Mrs. Carpentier:** I believe town counsel explained that it has to be gross appropriation. You cannot have different allocations with one on one side; rest on the other; it would have to be \$750,000 in the warrant article.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Could there be two contracts?

**Mrs. Carpentier:** That's not what's being reviewed for ambulance service. I confer that \$276,000 is in the operating budget and would carry over if we were in default.

**Mrs. Murray:** Yes – saw that in the default budget.

**Mr. Pineo:** The other 2024 budget – at a Budget Committee meeting, they motioned to have the Town Manager cut \$75,000 from the budget. The committee asked that it be justified why the cuts should NOT be made. This is perplexing; I answer to the board and provide responses to the Budget Committee.

I cut \$326,000 from the proposed 2024 operating budget. The BoS cut \$335,000 from the proposed budget. In deliberations with the Budget Committee before last night's meeting, the \$75,000 that they motioned and directed me to cut, inclusive of that, they made \$83,000 in cuts – with \$75,000 of those cuts to come from me.

I went through and made \$86,154 in budget cuts that are in front of you. A few are frankly, position statements from me. We spent a lot of time going through this budget. Expresses he has a problem making budget cuts under the direction of the Budget Committee. It pits me against department heads to an extent. Department heads have worked with me on the budget. I am not sure how you want to discuss this. You've got 15-20 items – we can go through them – or do nothing. I'll answer questions.

**Mr. Senecal:** agrees with Mr. Pineo. We went through these budgets and took out quite a bit. We've presented to the Budget Committee a reasonable budget. If they cannot find areas they feel should be cut, I don't think Jim should be asked to cut more. It's up to them. Jim should not be put in that position. We made out cuts; he made his; not fair for the Budget Committee to ask him to make another \$75,000. Not in favor of what the Budget Committee asked him to do.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Agrees – but in the Municipal Budget book, they have the right to. It does not seem right or fair.

**Mr. Senecal:** If they want to cut \$75,000 off the budget the Budget Committee has, that's a direction. I'm not in favor of asking Jim to find \$75,000 more to take out. Let the Budget Committee do that.

**Mr. Deshaies:** I was irate when this happened. Though they're allowed to do this, I don't like it at all. The Budget Committee should have gone through line-by-line and cut when they had the chance to.

**Mr. Senecal:** I do not agree with this list at all.

**Mrs. Murray:** After being at the Budget Committee hearing last night, there was one member who did her homework; who had areas she felt need to be changed – I may not have agreed with her – but I could tell she did the work and she was really trying to find cuts that I felt the Budget Committee could do. If they can't come up with the cuts, I agree with Dave, the Budget Committee could take \$75,000 off the bottom of the budget. That gives Jim the whole year to decide in that budget where to make those cuts. Doing that now – I cannot support that. The Budget Committee has to step up; if they don't, take the \$75,000 off the bottom. We did our job; Jim did his on the budget. If we get a default budget, we'll deal with that and the ambulance services and other services could be cut. Hopefully, they'll do their job.

**Mr. Freudenberg:** We did our job; made the tough cuts; noted the line and took the heat and are accountable. They are not providing that so it's not fair to make him come up with a list; they should do that.

**Mr. Harriman:** Agrees. Do not agree Jim should provide this list to him. If they want to do a bottom line cut, then answer the voters' questions at the deliberative session as to why they could not come up with the cuts themselves. Between the town manager, department heads and board, there are over \$660,000 worth of cuts; with the \$75,000 – the Budget Committee is at \$83,000 altogether – so they've done \$8000 going into last night's meeting.

**Mr. Pineo:** They did about \$10,000 last night.

**Mr. Harriman:** I put this back on the Budget Committee – let them do what they want; like a bottom line cut.

**Mrs. Carpentier:** I am not agreeing or disagreeing; making a technical point. When the MS 737 form is completed, the number at the bottom of the page has to be equal. There's purposes: police, fire, general government, welfare; The \$75,000 has to come out of somewhere. It'll be up to the board or Town Manager to move the money around in 2024 if that's the operating budget we get.

The role of the Budget Committee is to fill out that form which is referred to as "the budget" and deliver it to the deliberative session. It's been the role of the Finance Director to fill out the form on behalf of the Budget Committee, but someone has to give me direction on where that \$75,000 is coming from. Technically, I do not know what to do about the \$75,000.

**Mrs. Murray:** That is their job.

**Mrs. Carpentier:** That is what I'm saying; they cannot say take it off the bottom line; they have to pick a bucket ; pick a purpose. There is no miscellaneous column. Someone has to take off the \$75,000.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Perhaps it's in the Budget Committee minutes when John said to cut the \$75,000. I cannot remember if he said he wanted it cut from the bottom; he might have said both and asked Jim also make the specific cuts.

**Mrs. Carpentier:** Then how is the budget form completed?

**Mrs. Murray:** Maybe we need to call DRA; there's a place on the form for this to be entered; then we'll know before.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Maybe talk to counsel and NH Municipal Association to get guidance.

**Mr. Pineo:** I could take these items based on their categories; public safety, recreation, executive items. There are some numbers here that I think we could cut. That \$29,000 one; we've filled the positions; we know what the health plans are; we can make those cuts.

**Mrs. Murray:** No problem making that health insurance cut on your recommendation that we don't need it because we've hired somebody else. I can make that a motion.

**MOTION by Mrs. Murray to remove \$29,000 from 01-41550210 health insurance. Second Mr. Freudenberg. Approved 5-0.**

**Mr. Harriman:** That's 35-40% of it.

**Mr. Senecal:** Let them deal with the rest.

**Mr. Harriman:** Any other discussion? [none] Thank you, Jim.

**6. Other Business**

**Mr. Deshaies:** House Bill 1479- Efforts to limit towns' ability to budget for legislative advocacy. Bill signed by Meredith Dunbarton, Newton, NH. Letters submitted to state and to representatives and senators. Senators in Dover and Rochester considering submitting similar letters. The legislation would prevent organizations that represent town clerks, police and fire chiefs, town planners and other town professionals from being able to support or oppose specific legislation that could affect their departments in towns. Bill would prevent the NH Municipal Association from providing valuable information to the legislature and leave the legislature without the ability to rely on the expertise when considering the legislation. Worse, could impose criminal penalties on town officials who are trying to help; answer questions; even about bargaining agreements concerning their departments. It is not a good bill. Three sponsors do not have reputation for bills that have passed or who support communities. I have a letter opposing this bill for Town Manager and board to review and decide whether to send this to our representatives/senator to protect town officials who run departments.

**Mrs. Murray:** Is there a timeframe?

**Mr. Deshaies:** Sooner is better - but by our next board meeting.

**Mrs. Murray:** Send to us so we can review and sign individually and as a board.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Will send to Amy to forward.

**Mr. Harriman:** Other business?

**Mrs. Murray:** Are we going to go over a statement? This is the only place we have to discuss it. I drafted it after reading the Dec. 18 meeting where Brian made a motion; I seconded it where we were to write a statement to the public about how we had the issue with DRA about the unassigned fund balance. I wrote it; sent to Jim Pineo; met with Brad to talk about it. My tone and language is in this; I think we need to get this out.

**Mr. Harriman:** This was sent to everyone today for comments. We need to agree on the content of the letter – what we're doing now.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Conferred with Jim on one paragraph concerning a timeline.

**Mrs. Murray:** We just have to agree.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Once Mr. Pineo is comfortable with the wording/timeline, I'm OK with this.

**Mr. Pineo:** I think some timeline data is important regarding warrant article 11 for 2022; I've tied in that when the purchase order was issued; when the last requisition for the project was paid in conjunction with the fund balance. I've got a few more tweaks to make. That helps to explain the scenario. I thought it was a good letter.

**Mrs. Murray:** Pushing to get this out since the motion stated we do that before year's end. We owe it to the public.

**Mr. Harriman:** People listening should know we are working on it.

**Mr. Deshaies:** This is good for the next meeting. We can hopefully read it first – then sign it.

**Mrs. Murray:** We should read it; send issues/questions to Jim and then Jim can finalize the letter – and it can be on the town web site once it's read and approved.

## 7. Committee Reports

**Mr. Senecal:** none

**Mr. Harriman:** None since last meeting.

**Mrs. Murray:** Two budget committee meetings; library trustees meeting; Friends of Pop Whalen.

Statistics on Last Night Wolfeboro – well attended and good weather: Great Hall 11-1 p.m. 216; Congregational Church: Bob and Marla; 75; Peter Heimlich and The Unusual Suspects - 72. Bingo [two sessions at Estabrook Hall] -250; Brewster rink was not open – so we rented one-hour of ice at Pop Whalen- 175 people; rented 10 skates; Great Hall – Wildlife Encounters: 367 people; Carolyn Ramsay Band at Congregational Church – 170 people – Total 1,325. Church dinner – 120 people. Awaiting Escape House numbers; couple thousand at the fireworks. Thanks volunteers and sponsors for making that happen.

**Mr. Harriman:** Thanks Mrs. Murray for her work.

**Mr. Freudenberg:** None.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Budget Committee meetings.

## 8. Town Manager's Report

**Mr. Pineo:** One Budget Committee meeting; DRA responded to us on over-expenditure on the budget. They authorized the town to be able to expend up to \$175,000 over the 2023 approved operating budget. I am hopeful and confident, we may close the gap without utilizing any of those funds.

Received a petition warrant article as noted. Deadline for petition warrant articles is January 9 at 4 p.m. at the Town Clerk's office.

**Mr. Harriman** shared news: a contractor online to do work at the MED building, conduct sewer pump station inspections; do inspections and recommendations at Libby Museum. The contractor will NOT be able to do that work. We'll have to put out an RFP for other inspection services. Bergeron is simply booked with a big project and cannot commit to us.

Working toward booking Wed., January 17 in the afternoon at Great Hall for warrant article recordings for the board – BoS meeting is at 6:30 p.m.

**Mr. Harriman:** Doing it in Great Hall and the timing are both good.

**Mr. Pineo:** Last year that worked well.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Might be tough for me – but I can make it work.

**Mr. Pineo:** The next week, Great Hall will be set up for elections.

**Mrs. Murray:** Time?

**Mr. Pineo:** 2:30 or 3 p.m.

**Mr. Deshaies:** 1 p.m.?

**Mr. Pineo:** OK. That is all I have.

## 9. Questions from the Press (none)

## 10. Public Input (Limited to 3 minutes per person and not to exceed 15 minutes in total)

**Suzanne Ryan:** Speaks about budget over-expenditure and upcoming BoS letter to the public. States the treasurer is part-time and it's an important position. Recites the responsibilities of the town treasurer. Asks where the \$2 million dollar check went. Believes there was a step missed in the process. The role of the treasurer is important. More being handled by the finance director. Important for BoS to learn the mechanism of the town treasurer. Board needs to learn the process. Spend more time on our money. This error cost the taxpayers.

Gave BoS copy of 2002 warrant article – passed overwhelmingly – was used and successful and is within the DRA guidelines and the accounting practices. Used until 2016; using fund balance to reduce taxes. 2017-2023, zero fund balance to reduce taxes. I had questions and asked Mr. Pineo. For seven years it has not been applied. Asks for a deep dive into what happened. The process failed us. It's hurting the taxpayers.

**Mr. Persson:** Questions what is on the town web site for public hearing and BoS agenda. Need more information so public understands what is happening at meetings.

**Mrs. Carpentier** (in response to Mrs. Ryan)- BoS appointed a retired CPA two years ago to be town treasurer. He knows what he's doing; here 1-2 times a week; 4-6 hours; gives monthly reports to BoS; statements open for the public to see. He is on board with compliance issues. He watches money come in/money going out. Until the board signs off on the manifest, bills do not get paid by the treasurer. We can have him be invited for BoS to see him again.

Misconception is – the treasurer is in charge of cash investing; not in charge of appropriations – including overspending/underspending – that is management; management is the selectmen, Town Manager, finance director and department heads. Offers to train; offer a tutorial with NHMA to explain the difference between cash and appropriations; do a workshop, forum. There is no misapplying of money – it's all appropriations, budgeting and timing issues. I cannot wait to clear the air and look forward to the Bos/Town Manager letter to the public.

**Mr. Harriman:** No other public comments? [ none]

## 11. MOTION by Mr. Senecal to ADJOURN into Non-Public Session RSA 91-A.



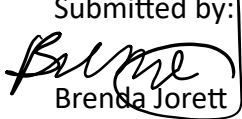
**SECOND Mrs. Murray. Approved 5-0.**

**MOTION by Mr. Senecal to seal the minutes at 9:21. Second Mr. Harriman. Approved 5-0.**

**MOTION by Mr. Senecal to adjourn at 9:21 p.m. Second Mr. Harriman. Approved 5-0.**

Next Meeting dates:	January 17, 2024	Regular Meeting
	February 6, 2024	Deliberative Session
	February 7, 2024	Regular Meeting

Submitted by:

  
Brenda Jorett

