

Town of Haverhill
SELECTBOARD BUDGET HEARING MINUTES
Monday, February 12, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Robert E. Clifford Memorial Building

Select Board Present:

Members Joe Longacre, Rod O'Shana, Kevin Knapp, and Carolyn Hofmann. A quorum was met.

Town Employees Present:

Brigitte Codling, Town Manager
Jennifer Boucher, Assistant Town Manager
Jim McKinnon, Head of Maintenance
David Appleby, Chief of Police

Members of the Public Present:

Greg Mathieson
Mark Lang
Darwin Clogston
Howard Hatch
Judy Harris
Gordy Harris
Melissa Gould
Diane Arel
Margo Longacre
Dawn Lavoie
Dave Joslin
Shawn Bigelow
Regis Roy
Gary Strahan
Tim Robie
Dick Guy
Renzo Chumbes

Members of the Public Online:

Harvey Keyes
Joanne Young
Leslie Ramsay
Lorraine Prescott
Skip Gadwah
Marilyn Blaisdell
Alex Nuti-de Biasi

Evelyn Elms
Martha Cunningham
Dennis Cunningham
Smas Sean
Delcia Vinnacombe
Dawn Lavoie
Skip Gadwah

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Longacre called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE/ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION #1: K. Knapp moved to approve the Agenda as written. C. Hofmann seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #2: R. O'Shana moved to approve the Consent Agenda as written. C. Hofmann seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #3: C. Hofmann moved to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2024, Select Board meeting as written. K. Knapp seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Facility Use Waiver Request

MOTION #4: C. Hofmann moved to waive the \$450 facility use fee for the Clifford Memorial Building for the Woodsville Fire Department. K. Knapp seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

LEAVE PUBLIC MEETING AND ENTER PUBLIC HEARING

Vice Chair Longacre explained the format for the public hearing, and asked that members of the public come to the podium to share their comments with the Board.

MOTION #5: C. Hofmann moved to enter the public hearing. K. Knapp seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

OPERATING BUDGET

Town Administration

Darwin Clogston noted the Advisory Budget Committee (ABC) voted to increase the Moderator's pay from \$100 to \$150/meeting. The total is now \$722 for this line item.

Greg Mathieson noted the ABC voted to decrease Jennifer Boucher's salary to \$75,000. B. Codling said the decision was made to reduce the bottom line of the entire section, not J. Boucher's salary.

Information Technology

Melissa Gould asked for an update on the status of the Town's information technology. B. Codling explained a new IT company has been hired and they are focusing on three projects, including replacing the servers and overhauling the telephone system.

Tim Robie said the total for this line item seems like a lot of money.

Benefits Not Otherwise Allocated

Melissa Gould noted that last year, the ABC tasked the Administration and Select Board with examining healthcare costs, as many residents are lower income and don't have coverage similar to that of Town employees. She asked if this has been addressed. B. Codling explained the Board asked her to cut \$50,000 from this line item. She has proposed two plan options for the Board's consideration that will achieve this reduction.

Tim Robie said this total exceeds the rate of inflation and is beyond what the taxpayers have. He proposed eliminating Town employee benefits. He said people should be paid a fair amount to work and the constant bickering about benefits is a waste of the Administration and the Board's time.

A resident asked what B. Codling did to cut \$50,000 from this line item. She explained the two plan options suggested are to include a premium share and to opt for a different plan with a higher deductible. If the Board approves the proposal, she will move forward with educating the employees as to what their options will be as of July.

Maintenance Department

A **resident** asked what the Maintenance Department does. B. Codling reviewed Jim McKinnon's and the department's responsibilities, including maintaining parks, trails, and facilities. Police Chief Appleby said J. McKinnon and the Maintenance Department work magic for the Town. J. Longacre added his experience with the Department and the improvements J. McKinnon has made to the Department.

B. Codling reviewed the proposed projects for the Clifford Memorial Building, the James R. Morrill Building, and the Haverhill/Bath Covered Bridge. J. Longacre noted there are a number of activities held at Railroad Park, and that the Master Plan designated that recreation should be continued, if not expanded.

Highway Garage

B. Codling explained the highway garage building is condemnable, so a design project is underway to design a new facility at the Center Haverhill Armory site and to move operations to that location.

Trails

Howard Hatch asked about the warrant article covering the Blackmount Trail upgrade. B. Codling said the article was removed. H. Hatch said the use of this trail has increased and he asked that the article be returned for consideration.

Melissa Gould said the trail has gotten very rough and she asked that the warrant article be returned for consideration.

Haverhill Commons

B. Codling explained Haverhill Commons has always been under the control of the Commissioners of the Haverhill Corner District. The Commissioners asked the Town to put the management and maintenance of the Commons into the Town's budget, as it is a Town-owned property. The Board agreed to do this.

Cemeteries

Melissa Gould clarified this line item covers the contract for the mowing that the Town takes care of. J. Longacre noted there is concern over headstones that are falling down and asked the Cemetery Commission to look into this. M. Gould said they are looking into grant funding to cover the cost of maintaining the headstones, which is complicated.

Tim Robie said the headstones could be cleaned with bleach by teenagers in need of service projects.

Police Department

Tim Robie considers this line item to be too high. He noted in the town where he lives, the Police Department budget is \$0. He suggested Haverhill should lower their Police Department budget to somewhere between \$0 and \$1.1 million.

Ambulance

Tim Robie said this should be privatized and not a government function. B. Codling explained it is privatized, and this is the cost of the contract with the Woodsville Fire District to provide ambulance services.

A resident questioned the increase in the cost of the ambulance contract. R. O'Shana explained a salary adjustment was done in order to retain and attract qualified staff. B. Codling added that they reviewed the cost of this contract with the District. She noted that equipment needed to be replaced and salaries adjusted. She said this cost is below other ambulance services in the region and noted the Town is impressed with the changes in the Woodsville Fire District. She said this size of an increase will not continue.

Airport

Darwin Clogston noted this is an enterprise fund, generating its own income. It is not funded by the taxpayers.

A resident asked why this line item is in the budget, if it is an enterprise fund. B. Codling explained that the residents need to be aware of any money that comes through the Town, even if it is for an enterprise fund.

Highway Department

A resident asked why the highway improvements weren't offered as a warrant article. B. Codling explained this expense is for the Brushwood paving project and it needed to be completed this year, so was added into the budget. She clarified this is half of the cost of the project; the rest of the funds will come from other sources.

Tim Robie said the Highway Department should be privatized.

Sewer Pump Station and Sewer Line

B. Codling noted this is an enterprise fund and is self-funded through user fees.

Health Officer

A resident asked about the duties of the health officer. B. Codling described the roles and responsibilities of the deputy health officer and health officer.

General Assistance

Tim Robie said he did not understand why the Town has a welfare department. He asked why the Town would incentivize people to come to Haverhill instead of seeking state and/or federal assistance. B. Codling said the state of New Hampshire requires each municipality to provide general assistance to individuals within the Town. She explained the options individuals have to request assistance. She added there has been a large increase in requests for general assistance in most towns in New Hampshire. If someone states they are homeless, the Town must help them, even if they are not a resident. She also explained the difficulty in obtaining reimbursement from other towns for services rendered to their residents. She said the Town has been strengthening their guidelines and noted that towns are pushing for welfare reform at the state level.

T. Robie said the state should fund welfare. He said this is top-down government, which is Communism. He said providing assistance used to be the function of churches and charities and individuals; it should not be a government function. He said if the state requires the Town to provide welfare, they should pay for it.

A resident asked about the qualifying criteria for individuals requesting assistance, and B. Codling and J. Boucher explained the requirements. J. Boucher added Town Welfare Administrator Valerie Morse has joined the Board of Directors of the local welfare administration association, and they are working on setting policy at the state level to change this process.

J. Longacre noted the largest item in this category is housing. B. Codling explained federal shelter programs ended with a week's notice, so there was an influx of individuals and families who suddenly needed help. She said the programs failed badly, as they did not help the families with job training or permanent housing as promised. So, V. Morse worked to provide these services, but at a cost to the Town.

A resident noted as taxes continue to increase, the Town will see more welfare requests. He said the state should have the Town's back, if the federal government has failed these individuals.

J. Longacre suggested that residents can call state legislators and express their opinions about this situation.

Libraries

Greg Mathieson said libraries are not Town-owned or -controlled entities. He said they should not be on the budget.

Patriotic Purposes

Jim said this total is barely enough to cover the veterans' flags for the cemeteries and donation to the Fourth of July Woodsville parade.

A resident asked if the Fourth of July Committee will not be receiving a donation from the Town. B. Codling said there is a recommendation that the Board increase this line item by \$2,000 to cover the cost of the flags and the Fourth of July donation, plus other needed items.

Debt Service

Tim Robie asked why the backhoe and dump truck were not included in the Highway Department budget. B. Codling explained these are loan payments. T. Robie said a rational person would add these items to the Highway Department budget, if they are part of the cost of maintaining the roads. B. Codling explained the Highway Department budget covers operations, while these line items are the debt the Town carries for capital improvement. She said anything with a loan payment is included in this category, not only Highway Department equipment.

A resident said having this item on page 17 paints a prettier picture of the Highway Department than what it deserves. R. O'Shana said this equipment has been voted on in previous warrant articles; this item shows how the Town's debt breaks down. The resident suggested reformatting the budget to show these items under the appropriate department. J. Boucher explained this format reflects the chart of accounts that is set up by the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration.

Total Budget

Dave Joslin asked what the tax rate increase will be. B. Codling said the tax rate per \$1,000 is \$7.33. D. Joslin noted the increase is substantial over last year.

WARRANT ARTICLES

B. Codling explained the Board eliminated some of the warrant articles they felt were not vital. She noted that at the budget workshop, the Board opted not to add funds to the Building Capital Reserve Fund to avoid immediately withdrawing them to cover the cost of the highway garage.

Greg Mathieson asked how to obtain a full copy of the warrant and B. Codling directed him to the Town Clerk's office. He asked for copies of the ordinances. J. Longacre reminded him there was a public hearing on the ordinances and they are on the website. B. Codling said the Town can provide copies, if they are requested.

Petitioned Article – To Remove the Position of Town Manager

B. Codling explained this is a petitioned article that requests removing the Town Manager and transitioning to a form of government where the Select Board makes all the decisions. The article suggests a Town Administrator would be hired; however, the article was not written in such a way that the Town would be able to do this in 2024. She explained a Town Administrator cannot make decisions or sign contracts, so the Board would be required to convene more official meetings to do business. She noted that as her contract is written, if the Town opts for a different form of government, the Town must buy out her contract.

A resident asked if anyone would be educating the public as to what this article means. B. Codling said the Board will need to decide how they want to put out information on any of the articles.

B. Codling noted this is the fifth time someone has tried to remove the town manager form of government in Haverhill. J. Boucher clarified the office staff would work at the direction of the Select Board, but could make no decisions. B. Codling reviewed the responsibilities of the Town Manager that would be returned to the Board causing the Board to need to be present almost daily in the Town Administration office.

A resident asked if the Board has the knowledge to apply for grants for the Town, such as B. Codling has done. J. Longacre said this was not his forte and this is why there is a Town Manager.

Ron said the Town Manager has all the answers or can quickly get them. He could not imagine losing the Town Manager position or this Town Manager specifically. He complimented J. Boucher and B. Codling on the work they do. He said he is almost offended that someone would introduce this article.

Greg Mathieson asked how many Town Managers and Town Administrators are in the state. A resident suggested he look it up.

Regarding the next five articles, B. Codling said that it is the opinion of the Mitchell Municipal Group that these articles can be fully adopted by the Board, as the Board has full authority over anything that is safety or health related. It is up to the Board if they want to make this decision or present the articles to the public.

A resident said he thought the voters should decide.

J. Longacre said they would discuss this during the work session following the public hearing.

Adopt Revised Flood Prone Area Ordinance

J. Longacre noted this article does not need to appear on the warrant, as the Board has the authority to adopt this.

B. Codling said the Mitchell Group noted there was legislation passed by the Governor that said the Select Board has the authority to re-adopt the flood prone area ordinance.

Revised Highway Ordinance

J. Longacre noted this article does not need to appear on the warrant, as the Board has the authority to adopt this.

B. Codling said the Mitchell Group noted that the law specifically states that the Select Board has full authority over decisions related to the roads.

Adopt Short-Term Lodging Ordinance

Adopt False Alarm and Frivolous Complaints Ordinance

Adopt Special Event Permit Ordinance

Transition to an SB2 Town

Town Moderator Gary Hebert highlighted issues with wording regarding the meetings to discuss the transition to an SB2 town. B. Codling will review this.

Eliminate Town Resident Tax

B. Codling said this tax is not equitably applied and that it is cumbersome to track down those who have not paid it. It costs more than the Town is making to collect the tax. J. Boucher explained the background as to why this tax is charged.

Appointment of Advisory Budget Committee

Darwin Clogston asked why this article is on the warrant every year. B. Codling explained this is how the Town has always done it.

Town Moderator Gary Hebert suggested switching Article 13 (Appointment of Advisory Budget Committee) and Article 14 (Petitioned Article – Official Budget Committee). He noted if Article 14 is adopted, Article 13 will become a moot point and will need to be procedurally eliminated. He outlined the procedural requirements of the RSA, if an official budget committee is voted in.

B. Codling explained the implications of moving from an advisory budget committee to an official budget committee. She noted the official budget committee would be responsible for creating everybody's budget, while the Select Board would have authority over the creation of the warrants. She explained the 10% rule, which means there can be nothing on the warrant monetarily that equals more than 10% of the budget. The Town would not have the ability to pass more than 10% of the warrants and the articles at the top of the list would be considered first.

B. Codling explained the budget creation process as it currently stands, working with the Advisory Budget Committee. J. Boucher added the official budget committee would have to work year-round to review expenditures of all departments and create the budgets.

G. Hebert noted it is difficult to find members for the Advisory Budget Committee in part due to the fact that former members do not feel as though the Board listens to their recommendations.

A resident asked what happens if the official budget committee is adopted and no one runs for it. G. Hebert said it would have to be rescinded by vote at the next Town Meeting.

A resident asked if an article could be put in the paper to explain the ramifications of this article. B. Codling is coordinating a newsletter with information regarding the Town Meeting. She noted that electioneering is not permitted, so only facts can be published.

Discontinued Road Articles

A resident asked if the residents on these roads are being notified that their roads are being discontinued, so that they can attend the Town Meeting and speak to these articles. **B. Codling** said a public hearing was already held, but if the articles remain on the warrant, the abutters will be notified. She noted these roads will be considered private roads, if they are discontinued.

Open Town Roads to OHRV / ATV Use

A resident said he lives on a Class VI road and has a lot of trouble with 4-wheelers and OHRVs. He recommended removing Class VI roads from this article, as the Town does not repair them and these vehicles can tear up the road. He said it is difficult to identify these vehicles when they do something wrong. He does not believe this article is a good idea.

A resident asked who will pay to send letters to residents on these roads. **B. Codling** explained the Town will provide notice through a public hearing notice, which will establish which roads will be excluded. She said if a resident has a concern about their road, they should attend this hearing to request exclusion of their road from this article.

Ron said there was zero damage to his Class VI road, which was opened last year. He said as long as ATVs maintain the speed limit, there has not been a problem. He has spoken with many businesses and they are all in favor of this article, as they thrive with ATV access. He noted many areas where this has been a success. He said the roads being opened will eliminate reports of illegal use of the roads by ATVs, as it is difficult to access the trails if the roads are not open to these vehicles. He noted there is grant money available to repair damage caused by ATVs.

Diane Arel said she is not in favor of this article. She said ATV riders do not obey the speed limit. She asked if material to repair Class VI roads will be available for every road. She asked if ATV drivers under 16 will be allowed on the roads, as they do not have a license.

Tim Robie said he can access the trails by hauling his ATV on a truck. He noted issues are forthcoming as side-by-sides access the Class VI roads. He is not in support of this article.

A resident suggested speaking with the Town of Warren about their experience with this issue.

Mark Lang noted Class VI roads are an asset. If an ATV damages a road, the ATV club will fix it. He said the age limit to operate an ATV is 12, riding with an adult over 25.

Town Clerk's Hours

Town Moderator Gary Hebert said the Town Clerk is codified by statute. There is no authority to dictate when an elected official works, so this warrant article is not enforceable.

(Former Article) – Upgrade Blackmount Trail

Darwin Clogston noted this article was cut and asked the Board to reconsider presenting it to the voters, as the townspeople voted overwhelmingly to support it at the last Town Meeting.

(Former Article) – Park and Recreation Facility Development

Darwin Clogston said this article was cut and suggested the Board reconsider presenting it to the voters. He said these are matched funds and participants in recreation increase every year. He noted this will give Recreation Director Sherri Sargent the tools she needs. He added that in the questions regarding the Master Plan, the majority of residents supported recreation and voted in favor of the skate park.

(Former Article) – Establish a Contingency Fund for 2024

Darwin Clogston said this article was cut and suggested the Board reconsider presenting it to the voters. He noted many Town budgets were impacted by the welfare overrun and it is short-sighted to cut this article. It provides a good buffer that would help the other departments.

Petitioned Article – Court Street Arts

Tim Robie said if organizations want to collect donations and run charities, he doesn't understand why taxpayers need to pay for it. He does not agree with these articles and asked the Select Board not to support them.

Petitioned Article - Good Shepherd Ecumenical Food Pantry

B. Codling said the amount requested is what the organization pays the Town in rent.

ANTICIPATED REVENUES

B. Codling noted anticipated revenues are down this year. She said this is the second year the actual revenues have been higher than anticipated and they hope this will happen again this year.

Taxes

J. Boucher said this figure does not include property taxes.

A resident said property tax information would be important for the taxpayers to see. B. Codling said a chart showing the tax rate, budget, revenues, and tax burden over time will be available early next week.

Transfer From Fund Balance

A resident asked how much the fund balance is this year and B. Codling said \$5 million. The resident asked about the state recommendation. J. Boucher said the requirement is between 5% and 17%; the Town is at approximately 4.99%. She said due to the freeze in spending due to the

welfare overrun, the Town came in under budget. They anticipate some of this will go into the fund balance to offset the tax rate.

B. Codling noted the funds included in last year's tax rate for Articles 27 and 28 are sitting in an assigned fund balance and cannot be touched. J. Boucher added once the Supreme Court and DRA rule on certain issues, the funds can be moved from the assigned fund balance.

Interfund Operating Transfers

J. Boucher explained this includes the enterprise funds previously discussed.

LEAVE PUBLIC HEARING AND ENTER PUBLIC MEETING

MOTION #6: K. Knapp moved to close the public hearing. C. Hofmann seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took a break.

BUDGET REVIEW BY HAVERHILL SELECT BOARD

The Board reviewed suggested changes and clarified issues they had questions on.

Town Meeting

MOTION #7: K. Knapp moved to change the Town Moderator line to \$722. R. O'Shana seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Clerk

R. O'Shana asked how the Town Clerk's salary will be impacted, if the warrant article passes. He noted G. Hebert's comments regarding the inability to set hours for an elected official. B. Codling said the article could be crafted to either cite a flat figure or a rate of pay per hour. She noted the budgeted amount would have to remain the same, as the voters voted for this amount last year at the Town Meeting. If this changes at this year's Town Meeting, some of this budget would go unspent. J. Boucher noted the warrant article sets the hours for the office, not necessarily for the Town Clerk.

MOTION #8: R. O'Shana moved to change the Town Clerk line to \$93,850 and the Town Clerk wages to \$50,000. C. Hofmann seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Police Department

B. Codling explained removing \$8,700 from the Department of Safety detail is problematic, as it is already funded through a grant and will not help the bottom line. If it is eliminated, the Police Department cannot do any details. She noted any changes in a wage line will impact Medicare, Social Security, and retirement.

Chief Appleby discussed the training overtime, noting that training requirements are increasing. He said it appears they did not need training last year, as they did not use the budgeted funds. However, this was due to the budget freeze. He is recommending \$10,000 for this line.

(no video from 4:00:00 through 4:23:00)

WARRANT ARTICLE REVIEW BY HAVERILL SELECT BOARD

R. O'Shana asked if the Blackmount Trail Update article could be added back onto the warrant. J. Boucher explained this is not possible, as the public would not have a chance to comment on it. The public hearing has concluded. She said the cost of this item could be put directly into the budget, as long as the bottom line does not change from what was presented during the public hearing.

B. Codling noted Recreation Director Sherri Sargent is researching grants and has matching funds, if she finds one. She said Ms. Sargent could also ask the Board to expend \$16,000 out of her Capital Reserve Fund. J. Boucher noted if the warrant article failed, these options would not be available.

Roads

MOTION #9: K. Knapp moved to keep the roads on the warrant. R. O'Shana seconded the motion. **Voice Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – nay, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed 3-1-0.

Lease/Purchase Highway Dump Truck

MOTION #10: K. Knapp moved to purchase the highway dump truck. J. Longacre seconded the motion. **Voice Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Open Town Roads to OHRV / ATV Use

MOTION #11: C. Hofmann moved to not recommend opening the Town roads to OHRV/ATV use. K. Knapp seconded the motion. **Voice Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – abstain, Knapp – abstain, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed 2-0-2.

Town Clerk's Salary

MOTION #12: R. O'Shana moved that the Town Clerk should be an hourly paid position capped at 40 hours/week, based on \$26.50/hour. Motion lost due to absence of second.

MOTION #13: K. Knapp moved to recommend the Town Clerk salary warrant article. C. Hofmann seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – nay, Knapp – aye, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed 3-1-0.

Diane Arel thanked the Board for the work they do.

Town Clerk's Hours

MOTION #14: K. Knapp moved to recommend the Town Clerk hours warrant article. C. Hofmann seconded the motion.

MOTION #15: K. Knapp moved to amend the Town Clerk hours warrant article. K. Knapp seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION #16: R. O'Shana moved to amend the Town Clerk hours warrant article to add the phrase, "advisory only." K. Knapp seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Expand the North Haverhill Water & Light District

MOTION #17: J. Longacre moved to recommend the expansion of the North Haverhill Water and Light District warrant article. C. Hofmann seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Articles 27 through 33

MOTION #18: K. Knapp moved not to recommend Articles 27 through 33. Motion lost due to absence of second.

MOTION #19: C. Hofmann moved to recommend Articles 27 through 33. R. O'Shana seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – abstain, Knapp – nay, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed 2-1-1.

Woodsville Fire Department/Woodsville Highway Department

MOTION #20: R. O'Shana moved not to recommend the Woodsville Fire Department and Woodsville Highway Department warrant articles. C. Hofmann seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – abstain, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed 3-0-1.

FINAL OPERATING BUDGET

The Town operating budget is \$5,242,169. The tax impact would be \$6.7924. If all warrant article pass, the tax impact would be \$8.13 and without Woodsville, it would be \$7.27. B. Codling said this tax rate is lower than that of the last few years.

B. Codling reported the total dropped \$391,899 from the original budget.

MOTION #21: K. Knapp moved to recommend the Town operating budget. C. Hofmann seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN MEETING

MOTION #22: K. Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 p.m. C. Hofmann seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Zoom Recording:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/xk_4PeHMRx9A0SEaSrGimImNyonD1cYVZICmkXBeqtuPX7tio9-JMqVxpoafPcrG.S-U_KYYdhEn9POJJ

Passcode: CVpp4D?H

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Haggeli