

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2024.

Committee members present included: Brenden Hubbard-Chair, Kevin Bazan-Vice Chair, Theresa Sepe - Selectboard Rep, Michelle Dwight, and Jake Blake – School Board Rep.

Brenden Hubbard called the meeting to order at 601pm.

Kevin Bazan made a motion to open the public hearing. Michelle Dwight 2nd the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Brenden Hubbard advised the committee that due to the 24hr turnaround on the minutes they could make a motion to accept minutes from 1/10/24 at deliberative on 2/3/24 to give more time for the committee to read the minutes.

TOWN WARRANT ARTICLES – read by Brenden Hubbard, Chair

TOWN MEETING WARRANT SB2 TOWN OF WINCHESTER STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

To the inhabitants of the Town of Winchester, in the County of Cheshire in said state, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Winchester School in said Winchester on **Saturday the 3rd of February** next 2024 at nine o'clock in the forenoon to discuss, debate and amend warrant articles #1 through #35 and to receive the reports of the selectmen, town treasurer and other town officers including the agents and committees, and act thereon. The final vote will be by the official ballot on **Tuesday, March 12, 2024.**

You are hereby notified to meet at the Winchester School, 85 Parker St.in said Winchester on Tuesday the 12th of March next 2024 at eight o'clock in the forenoon to act upon the following subjects. The Polls not to close an hour earlier than seven of the clock in the afternoon.

Article 1: To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

Article 2: Shall the Town of Winchester raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$4,515,353(Four million five hundred fifteen thousand three hundred fifty-three dollars). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$4,440,464 (Four million four hundred forty thousand four hundred sixty-four dollars), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Winchester or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required)

**Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 3-1**

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Article 3: Shall the Town of Winchester raise and appropriate the sum of **\$409,829** (Four hundred nine thousand eight hundred twenty-nine dollars) for the operations of the **Water Department**, the funds to be raised by user fees, or act in a manner thereon. This article will not affect taxation. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$383,449 (Three hundred eighty-three thousand four hundred forty-nine dollars). If the appropriation proposed in the article is not approved, the default amount shall be deemed to have been approved. "With certain

adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Winchester or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 4-0

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Article 4 : Shall the Town of Winchester raise and appropriate the sum of **\$504,803** (Five hundred four thousand eight hundred three dollars) for the operations of the **Sewer Department**, the funds to be raised by user fees, or act in a manner thereon. This article will not affect taxation. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$501,760 (Five hundred one thousand seven hundred sixty dollars). If the appropriation proposed in the article is not approved, the default amount shall be deemed to have been approved. "With certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Winchester or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 4-0

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$16,522.00** (sixteen thousand five hundred and twenty-two dollars) to be placed in the existing non-lapsing **Assessing & Revaluation** Capital Reserve Fund established under Article 16 at the March 2006 Town Meeting for the purpose of performing the assessing update or revaluation of the real estate in the Town of Winchester scheduled for 2025.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 4-0

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000** (ten thousand dollars) to be placed into the existing non-lapsing **Town Owned Building Upgrades** Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of upgrades for Town owned buildings?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 4-0

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000** (Five thousand dollars) for the Town's share of State Road grant reconstruction costs for bridges and place it in the existing non-lapsing **Bridge Reconstruction** Capital Reserve Fund established at the March 2006 Town Meeting under Article 19 for that purpose.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

The vote by the Budget Committee on whether to recommend was 2 for 2 against

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000** (fifty thousand dollars) to be placed into the existing non-lapsing Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing **Highway equipment**.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 4-0

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000** (twenty-five thousand dollars) to be placed into the existing non-lapsing **Ambulance** Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing an Ambulance.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 3-1

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$80,000** (eighty thousand dollars) to be placed into the existing non-lapsing Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing **Fire equipment**.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 4-0

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,000** (fifteen thousand dollars) to be placed into the existing non-lapsing **Police Cruiser** Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of updating the current Police fleet.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 4-0

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000** (ten thousand dollars) to be placed into the existing non-lapsing **Computer** Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing/maintenance of computers.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 3-1

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000** (thirty thousand dollars) to be placed into the existing non-lapsing **Culvert Repair** Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of repairs & maintenance.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 4-0

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,500** (two thousand five hundred dollars) to be placed into the existing non-lapsing Beach Ramp Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of installing a ramp at the **Town Beach**.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-1

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 3-1

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,000** (Three thousand dollars) to be placed into the existing non-lapsing Electronic Balloting device Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing or repair/maintenance of the Electronic Balloting device.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 4-0

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000** (Fifty thousand dollars) to be placed into the Forest Lake Dam Capital Reserve Fund, previously established, for the purpose of repairs and maintenance to the Forest Lake Dam.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 3-1

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$104,517** (One hundred four thousand five hundred seventeen dollars) to be placed into the existing non-lapsing Wastewater Treatment Plant Solar Array Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing the solar array scheduled in 2027.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0-1

Recommended by the Budget Committee 2-1-1

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to remove a portion of the property identified as Map 6, Lot 11, from the Town forest as previously designated by the 1990 Town Meeting pursuant to RSA 31:110, said portion is a long narrow strip of land along Plumb Pak Drive approx. 23,996 S.F.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0-1

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to establish a non-lapsing **Storm Damage** Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1-II for the purpose of addressing needs that arise as a result of storm damage, including making necessary repairs, using and acquiring equipment, supplies and/or facilitating cleanup and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,000** (Fifteen thousand dollars) to be placed in this fund with the board of selectmen being named as the agents to expend from said fund?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 3-1

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue absolutely, the unused portion of Old Rixford Rd from the Old Spofford Rd to the present-day Old Rixford Rd intersection. The length is to be 226 feet in length and discontinues the unused portion of the road running through the driveway of Map 11 Lot 19.

Inserted by Petition

Article 21: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000 (Sixty thousand dollars) for the purpose of subsidizing recreation in the Town of Winchester to be paid to the E.L.M. Memorial Community Center on a contractual basis.

Inserted by Petition

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-0

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Article 22: Shall the Town of Winchester raise and appropriate the sum of \$840.00 (Eight hundred and forty dollars) to support the annual Winchester Pickle Festival?

Inserted by Petition

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 4-0-1

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 (Five thousand dollars) to be given to the Winchester Historical Society for the purpose of operating and maintaining the Sheridan House so that the museum may continue to preserve the history of Winchester for benefit of the public.

Inserted by Petition

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-0

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Article 24: To determine if the Town of Winchester will appropriate the sum of \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars) for the purpose of supporting year-long youth activities with ACCESS. The monies support ACCESS to scholarship children throughout the year who might not otherwise be able to attend the program and also supports obtaining resources for programming such as appropriate staffing, curriculum, enrichment materials, and other programming needs. ACCESS provides mentorship and a safe productive learning environment for the youth of Winchester and Ashuelot to take advantage of opportunities to learn, help their community, and have fun activity experiences with their peers.

Inserted by Petition

Recommended by the Board of Selectman 3-0-1

Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-0

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

SCHOOL WARRANT ARTICLES - read by Brenden Hubbard, Chair

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARRANT FOR 2024-2025**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Winchester in the County of Cheshire and the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in school affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Winchester School Gymnasium at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, February 3, 2024, to consider the following articles in deliberative session, pursuant to RSA 40:13, the official voting of the business of the Winchester School District as determined at the deliberative session and the election of school District Officers will be held at the Winchester School Gym on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 with the polls open between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.

ARTICLE TWO: Shall the Winchester School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget for the 2024-2025 school year, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$12,753,689.00. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$13,203,870.00 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Winchester School District or by law

or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only?

- The School Board does recommend this appropriate 4-0
 - The Budget Committee **does** recommend this appropriate 5-0
- Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

ARTICLE THREE: Shall the Winchester School District vote to approve the cost items included in the three-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Winchester School Board and the Winchester’s Support Staff Association (WSSA), which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing.

The estimated increase in the costs for salaries and benefits under the collective bargaining agreement are as follows:

Year #1 2024-2025

Wages:	\$32,022.99
Benefits:	\$ 2,449.76
Total:	\$34,472.75

Year #2 2025-2026

Wages:	\$16,870.96
Benefits:	1,290.63
Total:	\$18,161.59

Year #3 2026-2027

Wages:	\$16,870.96
Benefits:	\$ 1,290.63
Total:	\$18,161.59

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$34,472.75 for the upcoming fiscal year 2024-2025, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the costs for salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement?

- The School Board does recommend this appropriate 4-0
 - The Budget Committee **does** recommend this appropriation 5-0
- Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

ARTICLE FIVE: Shall the Winchester School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$125,000.00 to be placed in the Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund previously established? (Majority vote required)

- The School Board does recommend this appropriation 4-0
 - The Budget Committee **does** recommend this appropriation 5-0
- Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

ARTICLE SIX: Shall the Winchester School District vote to raise and appropriate up to \$25,000.00 to be placed in the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2024, Unreserved Fund Balance available for transfer on July 1, 2024?

- The School Board does recommend this appropriation 4-0

- The Budget Committee **does** recommend this appropriation 5-0

Brenden Hubbard opened the floor to Public Comment. No comments from the Public.

Lindseigh Picard thanked the Budget Committee on behalf of the School Board and Select Board.

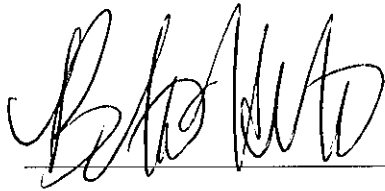
Jake Blake made a motion to close the public hearing. Theresa Sepe 2nd the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

February 3rd, 2024, Deliberative Session in Winchester School Gym- School starts first @ 9am, School to follow.

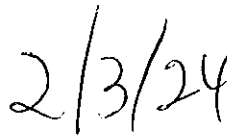
Theresa Sepe made a motion to Adjourn. Jake Blake 2nd the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 620pm.

Meeting Minutes taken by: Monica Truesdell, T.A. Assistant



Brenden Hubbard-Budget Committee Chair



Date

