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Michael Cutting, Chairman
Martha Mical , Vice-Chair
Alfred Hanson
Martha Bodnarik
David Minton
Kimberley Edelmann
Jonathan Lord, Selectman's Rep
Raymond Martin, Water Precinct Rep

TOWN OF WARNER Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes – APPROVED

January 21, 2021 7:00 PM

No physical location for this meeting; it was conducted via Zoom.

At 7:00 p.m., Chairman Michael Cutting called the meeting to order and read this preamble:

"Good evening, as Chair of the Budget Committee, I am declaring that an emergency exists and I am invoking the provisions of RSA 91-A:2, III (b). Federal, state, and local officials have determined that gatherings of 10 or more people pose a substantial risk to our community in its continuing efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. In concurring with their determination, I also find that this meeting is imperative to the continued operation of Town of Warner government and services, which are vital to public safety and confidence during this emergency. As such, this meeting will be conducted without a quorum of this body physically present in the same location.

At this time, I also welcome members of the public accessing this meeting remotely. Even though this meeting is being conducted in a unique manner under unusual circumstances, the usual rules of conduct and decorum apply. Any person found to be disrupting this meeting will be asked to cease the disruption. Should the disruptive behavior continue thereafter, that person will be removed from this meeting.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote".

1 – ROLL CALL

ROLL CALL: Mike Cutting (Chairman); Martha Mical alone; Kimberley Brown-Edelmann, alone; Martha Bodnarik, alone; Dave Minton, alone; Ray Martin, alone; Jonathan Lord (Select Board's Representative), alone

Also present: Diane Ricciardelli (Town Administrator), Michele Courser (Town Clerk), Ed Mical (Emergency Management Director), Judy Newman-Rogers (Admin Assistant to the Board of Selectmen), Sam Bower (Selectman), Clyde Carson (Selectman), Kelly Henley (Bookkeeper), William Chandler (Police Chief), Sean Toomey (Fire Chief), Michael Simon, (Library), Nancy Ladd (Librarian), Tim Allen (Director of Public Works Department), Varick Proper (Transfer Station Foreman), John Leavitt, Kristy Heath (Recording Secretary)

Chair Cutting said that evening they would go over the wording for the warrant articles. They would then look at the operating expenses as far as what has been expended from 2020.

Review and Approval of Minutes

January 7, 2021

Dave Minton moved and it was seconded by Jonathan Lord to approve the minutes of January 7, 2021, as circulated.

Lord: Yes, Martin: Yes, Mical: Yes, Bodnarik: Abstain, Minton: Yes, Edelmann: Abstain; Cutting: Yes

THE MOTION PASSED.

January 14, 2021

Ray Martin moved and it was seconded by Martha Mical to approve the minutes of January 7, 2021, as amended.

Martha Mical said on page 3 the Kearsarge Mountain Road alternate route should be \$7,000 not \$15,000. Also, there is a sentence in the second paragraph from the bottom that needs to be reworded.

Lord: Yes, Martin: Yes, Mical: Yes, Bodnarik: Abstain, Minton: Yes, Edelmann: Abstain; Cutting: Yes

THE MOTION PASSED.

Warrant Article Review/Approval

The warrant articles were reviewed by the Budget Committee. After discussion from the board, a motion was made to accept each of them except for two. One was the total budget; the total would be finalized early next week. There was a discrepancy in the total of \$500 (\$3,525,207 vs. \$3,525,707). Chair Cutting and Diane will finalize and send out the correct total early next week.

The second issue is Warrant Article #17. Martha Mical asked about the wording. Diane said she verified this with DRA and will revisit it once again before the meeting the following week.

Expenditures for 2020

Chair Cutting said that they are actually under budget. The budget last year was for \$3,351,894. They have \$118,296.96 unspent. Diane said Kelly's report was \$121,000. She is off by \$3,000 but will find it. Kimberley said it is Memorial Day expenditures. Diane adjusted the spreadsheet to show the correct total. They have \$121,296.97 remaining. There were no believed outstanding invoices remaining. Kelly noted that the actual remaining is \$121,546.

There were no outstanding questions about expenditures from 2020.

Ms. Edelmann asked what was going on with Town Meeting. Mr. Martin said the Secretary of State did not come out with any guidelines. The NH Municipal association did, however. They would hold the voting on the regular Tuesday, as usual. A virtual meeting on the following night can be held but they would have to spend \$5,000 to \$6,000 on letters that have to go out to voters (two letters). The Selectmen have decided to postpone the business meeting to no later

than May 5th. The plan is to have a regular, normal meeting with masks in the town hall or outside possibly at the Main Street Bookends amphitheater. Mr. Martin is the moderator. Ms. Bodnarik suggested the idea of holding a zoom meeting but held in several larger rooms to split up the attendance between locations around town. Ms. Edelmann asked if there would be additional costs to hold a meeting in May. Mr. Martin said he did not believe so. Further information would be made public about town meeting in the following week.

John Leavitt said they will have to abide by last year's budget until the May town meeting has been held. Mr. Martin said he understands this and doesn't believe there will be a huge difference.

John Leavitt noted that there were no numbers last week for the solar array revenue. Ms. Bodnarik said that was because there was a warrant article that said that the revenue was to go toward paying off the array. Mr. Martin agreed with this explanation. Kelly said this revenue will be listed separately in the treasurer's report in the town report.

Budget Summary

Chair Cutting noted that the 2021 Operating Budget is \$55,720 (1.61% over last year). Their Capital Budget is \$627,500 which is a 5.98% increase. The total budget is 2.24% over last year's budget. He figured that the tax rate would be \$10.42 at this point. A combination of additional revenues and using surplus will make their tax rate much similar to where it was last year (\$9.67).

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ray Martin and seconded by Chair Cutting to adjourn.

THE MOTION PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary

Town of Warner