

TOWN OF WARWICK
In Person & Virtual Meeting of the Warwick Selectboard
Warwick Community School
April 16, 2024
6:00 p.m.
MEETING MINUTES

Selectboard Members Present: Keith Ross, Vice-Chair; Brian Snell, Clerk

Selectboard Members Present via Zoom: Alan Genovese, Chair

Others Present: David Young, Town Coordinator; Joe Larson, Fire Chief; Michael Mankowski, Fire Deputy; Shane Barbarian, Fire Lieutenant; Zac Marti; Fire Department; Chris Langley, Fire Department; Lorette Crane, Finance Committee; Jessica Marshall, WCS Administrative Assistant; William Lyman

Others Present via Zoom: Amanda Carey, Selectboard Secretary; Diana Noble, Finance Committee Chair; Tracy Styles, Highway and Assessors Clerk

*Due to Selectboard Chair, Alan Genovese, being present via Zoom, Vice-Chair, Keith Ross, chaired the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Keith Ross called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. by roll call vote.

II. APPEARANCES

a. Finance Committee

Young explained that the Annual Town Meeting warrant has an article for \$600k+ for the purchase of a new fire engine. The article calls for a vote to transfer \$200,000 from stabilization, and to hold an override for the remaining \$479,333. Young also explained that the Accountant is not in favor of the article for deficit spending a police detail account but Town Counsel has approved it.

Finance Committee Chair, Diana Noble, came before the Board to discuss the proposed FY25 budget. She sent the Board a wage history spreadsheet, it is still a working document. It presents the history of wages over the last four years. There was a 4.5% increase in wages for FY24. The proposed wage increase for FY25 is about 3.2%. The total proposed FY25 omnibus budget is \$2,826,899. The FY25 tax rate would be \$17.76 with this proposed budget.

Joe Larson, Fire Chief, came before the Board to discuss the article for funding a fire engine. Chief Larson explained that there are a limited number of these fire trucks made each year and it is a competitive purchase. He feels it is important to push for this new truck this year because it is the lowest cost he has seen in all of

his research. The Town of New Salem recently purchased the same truck and they are a similar town to us. Chief Larson understands that it is a big expense but has concerns that the prices of them are just going to increase substantially each year that we wait. Our current fire engine is continuing to age, it does not have the space to hold all of their necessary equipment, and the truck has a hard time going up hills. Another concern Chief Larson has is that there are a lot of electric vehicles on the road now, and the school recently purchased an electric bus. Their current truck does not have the capability to utilize the foam needed for electric vehicle fires. Chief Larson recommends this \$680,000 fire engine. If passed at Town Meeting, \$200,000 from stabilization would be used and the remaining balance would be financed. Young explained that borrowing the \$480,000 will put us over the levy and require an override. If this article passes at Town Meeting, the override would go on the next Town Election. Chief Larson will prepare an informational packet for the fire truck article and have it available at Town Meeting.

It is the consensus of the Board to approve the presented FY25 omnibus budget with the addition of \$10,000 for the police detail revolving account.

Snell MOVED to approve the Annual Town Meeting warrant as amended and to change the borrowed amount to \$480,000 in Article 13. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED by roll call vote. 3-0-0.

Laurette Crane announced that the Finance Committee will be holding an information meeting on Monday April 29th at 7:00 p.m. where the public will have the opportunity to ask questions regarding the budget and warrant articles.

III. UNANTICIPATED

Bill Lyman gave the Board a document in regard to some concerns that he has. He hopes that the Board will review and discuss.

Young reminded that the next Selectboard meeting will be Monday, April 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Snell MOVED to adjourn at 7:16pm. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED by roll call vote. 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Carey
Selectboard Secretary

Documents consulted at this meeting:

*Meeting agenda dated April 16, 2024

*20240415 Warwick Omnibus Budget FY25

*2024 ATM – Warrant FY25 Draft v. 1.16