

Select Board  
Martin Memorial Hall  
5259 Route 5, Ascutney VT  
Monday, January 8, 2024  
5:30 PM  
SPECIAL MEETING

**Select Board Members Present:** Michael Todd, Kelly O'Brien, August Murray, Wendy Smith  
**Select Board Members Absent:** David Fuller

**Brandon Gulnick, Town Manager**

Others Present:

Olivia Savage		
Lisa Slade		

**1 Call to Order**

Mr. Todd called the meeting to order at 5:34pm.

**2 Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Todd led the pledge of allegiance.

**3 Agenda Review**

No changes.

**4 Comments from SB, TM, and Citizens on Topics not on the Agenda**

Citizen Lisa Slade read from a letter that she had sent to the Town Office about hanging flags and how historically, funds to do this were raised by donations. However, given the state of the world today, instead of relying on donations, if the town may consider replacing damaged or worn flags on a regular basis in the Town budget. The Town Manager stated that it did not need to go into the budget, but that it could be paid for out of the general fund balance.

**Motion:** To allow the Town Manager to expend from fund balance the expenses necessary for flag replacement up to \$4,000.

**Made by:** Ms. Smith                      **Second:** Ms. O'Brien

**Vote:** All in Favor

The Select Board discussed where the funding should come from in the budget going forward and agreed that it should have its own line item.

**5 FY25 Revised Budget**

The Town Manager had to revise the [general fund budget](#) due to some changes that had occurred since the budget had passed on December 5, 2023. Some of those changes were in staff at the police department, which resulted in the loss of a \$60,000 grant that had been in the budget. Staffing changes, such as a new accountant with benefit changes, the appropriation correction, SAPA, the fire department, and the special article for the highway department also were factors. The Town Manager presented the previous budget and the proposed revised version for comparison.

**Motion:** To rescind the December 5, 2023 motion: *To approve the FY25 General Fund budget \$1,810,161, of which \$1,368,442 to be raised by taxes.*

**Made by:** Dr. Murray                      **Second:** Ms. Smith

**Vote:** All in Favor

**Motion:** To approve the General Fund budget in the amount of \$1,754,132, of which \$1,372,413 to be raised by taxes.

**Made by:** Dr. Murray                      **Second:** Ms. Smith

**Vote:** All in Favor

**6 FY25 Town Meeting Articles**

The Select Board took a few moments to review the Town Meeting Articles.

**Motion:** To accept the Articles and the Warning for the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, March 2, 2024 and for voting on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

**Made by:** Ms. Smith                      **Second:** Ms. O'Brien

**Vote:** All in Favor

The Select Board, Town Manager, and citizens discussed at length budgetary procedures, past and present. The Select Board stated that Article 11 was done this way was to avoid interest, to provide more time to collect information on the equipment, and because it would be a one time purchase. The Select Board discussed clarifying the intention of Article 11 for the voters and concluded that Article 11 should include that it is for the purchase of equipment and to replace the backhoe.

**7 Any Other Business**

None.

**8 Future Agenda Items**

Not Discussed.

**9 Adjourn**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.

**Made by:** Ms. Smith                      **Second:** Ms. O'Brien

**Vote:** All in favor

The meeting adjourned at 6:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nichole Gagnon

WEATHERSFIELD SELECT BOARD

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Michael Todd, Chairperson

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August Murray, Selector

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David Fuller, Vice-Chairperson

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Wendy Smith, Selector

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Kelly O'Brien, Clerk