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BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
February 9, 2023

**Selectmen Present:** Oren Remick, John Blanchard, Justin Bradshaw

**Public Present:** See attached sign in

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Justin Bradshaw.

Justin stated the budget will be reviewed by Department unless someone has a question. Justn reviewed the budget, there were no questions asked.

Justin then went on to review the Warrant Articles. The following questions were asked:

- 1. Warrant Article 09: Denis Ward inquired about the amount being requested to be added to this fund. Justin noted this fund covers half of our utility evaluations as well as legal items. For instance, the recent sale of Great River Hydro, required us to consult with our legal team.
- 2. Warrant Article 11: Jessica Sherman stated the Library Trustees are agents for this fund. Justin noted the Dept of Revenue requested us to add some language, Diane will verify it is okay to change is to read the Library Trustees remain as agents.
- 3. Warrant Article 14: Tod Cohen noted that the article is based on the speculation of perceived better coverages. He questioned what the mindset of the people is and if we get many complaints/ Justin stated we are fortunate in Monroe to have a low crime rate and we do not receive many complaints. This article is simply to research and evaluate the idea of a regional police force. No funds will be spent and the information will be brought back next March.

Additional questions were asked by the public:

- 1. Keith Merchand questioned why we start our a newly elected official at the same rate as the person they replace. Justin stated Elected Officials pay has been set by Warrant article and the RSA does not allow us to lower the rate of pay without bringing it back to be voted on.
- 2. Denis questioned why there is no pay for the Emergency Management System members as it may help bring in people to help. Maynard Farr noted that he is a member of the EMS in another town and receives a stipend but that does not seem to help bring people in to help.

There being no more questions, the Town portion of the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted, Diane Gibson Smith, Administrative Assistant