

**Town of Norwich**  
**Special Selectboard Meeting**  
**1/13/23**

**Active participants: Selectboard members Roger Arnold, Marcia Calloway, Robert Gere, Aaron Lamperti, and Mary Layton. Interim Town Manager Brennan Duffy, Interim Finance Director Joyce Hasbrouck, Lister Pam Smith, Stuart Richards.** Meeting convened at 5:30 pm.

1. **Welcome by Chair Marcia Calloway** included a statement asking the public not to comment during this meeting so that the **Selectboard** could finalize and vote on the budget.
2. **Public Comment: Stuart Richards** stated his understanding that public comment is required by statute.
3. **Approval of the Agenda: Layton moved, second by Gere to approve the agenda. Vote: Yes-Unanimous.**
4. **Consent Agenda: Layton moved, second by Gere to accept correspondence as included in the Selectboard Packet. Vote: Yes-Unanimous.**
5. **Presentation of Amended Budget by Interim Finance Director Joyce Hasbrouck.** Two budgets were presented, one with adjustments and the second adjusted with 6% reductions of all line items except those defining salaries, wages, and associated benefits. **Gere** noted that it has been tough to analyze the budget without access to an excel worksheet. **Arnold** noted that last year access was not provided but there was more staff support. **Lamperti** noted that it was too late in the process to correct this. **Arnold** asked **Hasbrouck** to pull out the increase for commodities. **Hasbrouck** said about \$25,000 higher. **Arnold** said the Unanticipated Expenses fund could be tapped for increases. **Layton** thought the 6% budget presentation was a good exercise but not realistic to recommend. **Calloway** concurred. **Lamperti** said if we adopted the 6% version we might have to tap the Unexpected Expenses Fund to meet obligations. **Hasbrouck** noted that the Lister's budget does not include a 50K "buffer" for expenses beyond the basic reappraisal. **Gere** said if we adopt the 6% cut we will short change departments, create a backlog, and necessitate larger increases next year. **Lamperti** said the narrative could be that this is actually an acceptable year for increases because of inflation and increased services. **Arnold** noted that COLA increases will be made to employees. **Public Comment: Lister Pam Smith** noted that the Lister budget is the bare minimum and does not include funds for legal services of appeals. **Arnold** proposed three possible lines to reduce: 50K to repave the transfer station, 30K Gile Mountain parking lot, and the wage structure of the Town Clerk's office. **Calloway** said it would be consistent with other departments with vacancies to not seek reduction of salary in the

Town Clerk's Office. **Interim Town Manager Duffy** noted that the Assistant Town Manager would devote time to grant writing to help support projects such as improving the Gile Mountain parking situation. **Arnold moved, second by Lamperti, to reduce the total cost of the contracted services line by \$31K, to reduce \$20K from the Town Manager Search line, and reduce \$20K from the Paving line for a total of \$71,000. Vote: Arnold, Calloway, Gere, Lamperti: Yes. Layton: No. Interim Town Manager Brennan Duffy** commended the diligence and time spent on the budget process with special thanks to **Joyce Hasbrouck's** contributions. **Duffy** and **Hasbrouck** will work on a "narrative" concerning this year's budget process for the Town Report.

6. **Layton moved, second by Lamperti, to recommend to the voters a FY2024 Town budget of \$5,522,124. Vote: Yes-Unanimous.**
7. **Gere moved to adjourn, second by Lamperti. Vote: Yes-Unanimous. Time adjourned: 6:56 pm.**

Approved by the Selectboard on February 8, 2023

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**Marcia Calloway, Selectboard Chair**