Waterford Pre-Town Meeting Waterford School Gymnasium February 27, 2024

Attendance list attached.

Moderator Maurice Chaloux opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Chaloux began with the pledge of allegiance. He then opened the floor to commentary from citizens to decide if Town Meeting should include a discussion about the potential purchase of a new tanker truck for the Fire Department. It was decided a discussion will not be included.

Articles 1-28 were each individually discussed and room for comment was provided.

Historical Society President Helen Pike shared some background information and answered questions from citizens concerning Article 20. She stated the land of the Powers Wheeler Cemetery on Daniels Farm Rd was sold to the town by General Carr who served in the War of 1812. There aren't any members of the Powers or Wheeler families buried in the cemetery, but many Carr family members were buried there.

Howard Remick noted that the proposed Town Budget in Article 25 will increase property taxes by \$340 per \$100,000 of value. Rob Begin noted that most of the budget increase is from the school, and encouraged citizens to attend and participate in school budget meetings.

Fire Chief Colin Fucci shared some information on the potential purchase of a tanker truck. The purchase price of the truck is about \$492,000. They have about \$217,000 in existing funds, ARPA funds, and the trade-in value of the old truck to put toward the purchase price. They are looking for a loan of up to \$275,000 financed over seven years to pay for it. The fire department's budget has a purchase fund allocation, for which they are requesting a 5% increase. They are working to follow protocol in accordance with the same procedures of purchasing big equipment the town has kept for over 30 years to purchase many trucks and other equipment. He stressed that it is not a one-time ask of \$275,000 from the taxpayers. No other loans currently exist. He answered questions from citizens and gave examples of other similar purchases the town has made in the past. There was an interest in setting up an auxiliary for the Fire Department.

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm.

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