

**Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of February 1, 2024
FINAL MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM by the Chairman.

PRESENT: Chair Chris Bashaw; Laurie Szwed, Ellie Alessio, Select Board Members; Finance Director Paula Mahoney

Chairman Bashaw said that the reason for this meeting is that it has been learned that because the Budget Committee voted not to recommend the 2024 budget, a new notice needs to be posted with the proposed budget, using specific language that has been provided by Town counsel. The Board has been informed that by not recommending the budget, the Budget Committee has failed to perform their duty to present a budget, and the budget is now the Select Board's.

MOTION: by Selectwoman Alessio, to sign the notice as recommended by legal counsel, and post with the proposed budget.

SECOND: by Selectwoman Szwed

All in favor via roll call vote.

There was a brief discussion in which it was stressed that no changes are being made to the budget itself; this is strictly procedural to resolve a legal problem with the way the budget was to be presented at the Deliberative Session. The budget will now be presented by the Select Board. It was also affirmed that the budget committee meant to resolve this at Deliberative Session and did not understand the ramifications of not approving the budget at Decision Day. The Board will work with the Budget Committee; Chairman Bashaw will reach out to Stacy Dion to get the bullet points she used, as the board will have the same message to convey.

Ms. Mahoney pointed out that the budget cannot be increased by more than 10% of the total amount recommended by the Budget Committee.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:45 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Susan H. Ayer, Administrative Assistant to the Select Board