**Present:** Beth McDonald, Russ Cumming, Carolyn Partridge, Gail Wyman, Crystal Corriveau, Bridgette Blanchard, Betsey Huffman, Emily Goyette, Michael Pelton. Abigail Pelton, Sara Peck, Susan Persa, Meredith Tips-McClaine, Pat McClaine, Al McClaine, Eileen Widger, Erin Kehoe, Keith Gustafsson, Alexis, Erik & Tucker Mialkowski, Sue Pare, Alan Partridge, Kord Scott, Kathy Scott, John Beagan, Jessica McGrath, Adrian May, Ronald Boslun, David Lewis, Maureen Bell, JoJo Chlebogiannis, Jim Chlebogiannis, Carrie Tintle, Ron Cohen, Bob Bingham, Marcia Clinton, Bill Dunkel, Chris Dunkel, (clerks note: there were additional attendees who came and left during the meeting for which there is no record--some in person and others on Zoom)

**Call to Order:**  10:03 AM

**Public Comment:**

The clerk read an opening statement reminding attendees of the purpose of the meeting. This is a mandatory informational meeting required to be within 10 days of the vote on September 7, 2021. The purpose of this meeting is to review the two budgets that the CFO of the WCSU has prepared. Note budget (A) is for an operational school. The second budget (B) is for a non-operational school. To be clear that everyone knows what that means here is a summary.

The Operational budget means the children would be educated in this building. The Non-operational budget means the parents could chose to send their children to one of five fully qualified elementary schools. Four of them are public schools, Townshend, Grafton, Chester or Flood Brook. The fifth is the Mountain School in Winhall, a private school. The town would pay tuition to any of these schools.

At this point Erik Mialkowski interrupted and started shouting out a comment. In frustration Russ asked Erik to shut up, (not the proper response). WES Board Chair Beth McDonald gained control of the meeting and the clerk continued.

The clerk noted that transportation would be decided by the school board and there were several options. There are two school bus routes, one on Rt. 11 for Flood Brook, and one on Rt. 30 for Townshend that could be coordinated with the Windham bus schedule. A comparison of the services available at other public schools should be made with what is available at WES.

At this point Beth McDonald made a list of names of individuals who wanted to speak. What followed was 3 ½ hours of testimony as to how wonderful WES was and how 3 to 5 generations of family members had attended the school. Several graduates also spoke to their experience at the school and how much they appreciated the staff. A few parents who support the non-operational school option attempted to make their views known but were heckled by the supporters of WES.

There was no attempt by the moderator to bring the meeting to its stated purpose of reviewing the two budgets or discussing a comparison of the services between the two budgets. The agenda indicated it was an informational meeting.

The Chairwoman adjourned the meeting at 1:58 p.m.