Via Zoom:

Maureen Bell, Selectboard Chair Kathy Jungermann, Auditor

Kord Scott, Selectboard Vice-Chair Imme Maurath, Auditor

George Dutton, Selectboard Member Pat McLaine, Auditor

Michael McLaine, Town Moderator

Kathy Scott, Treasurer

Approximately 40 other attendees

Selectboard Chair Maureen Bell called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM with +/- 50 people in attendance via Zoom. Maureen welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the meeting would be recorded in 45-minute segments. If residents loose their connection, they can rejoin using the directions on the inside cover of the Town Report. If there are major technical difficulties, the meeting can be continued to a time, place and date certain, still observing the timeframe of within 10 days of Town Meeting Day.

Selectboard Members Maureen Bell, Kord Scott and George Dutton introduced themselves.

Moderator Michael McLaine requested participants to keep their microphones on mute, unless requested to speak. Statute requires individuals to introduce themselves before speaking and keeping to a 2-minute timeframe. All speakers will be given the opportunity to speak once before anyone speaks twice.

1. Review and discuss Article1: To elect a Town Moderator for the year ensuing.

There is 1 candidate on the ballot – Michael McLaine

Michael McLaine is running for Town Moderator, a position he has held for some time. He hopes everyone will accept his candidacy.

1. Review and discuss Article 2: Shall the voters accept the Town Report prepared by the Auditors?

 Michael thanked the Auditors for compiling the Town Report.

1. Review and discuss Article 3: To elect all Town Officers as required by law.

 **Town Clerk – 3 years**

There are 2 candidates on the ballot – Ellen McDuffie and Erin Kehoe.

Before they could speak, Imme Maurath indicated that her ballot, which was marked draft, has 2 other candidates listed. Michael excused the error and said he would get a replacement to Imme. Bill Casey said he had the same problem. (Note: upon inspection after the meeting it was determined Bill had a regular ballot, not a draft.)

Ellen McDuffie introduced herself. She has lived in Windham for more than 10 years. She works with the Windham Community Organization as well as the Windham News & Notes. She has been Assistant Town Clerk, serving under 4 different Clerks for the past 7 years and feels uniquely qualified. She brings skills the job requires, as well as experience and continuity. Her skills include attention to detail, cross-checking for accuracy, recording documents and excellent record-keeping. She knows the processes and the importance of the job and has the necessary computer skills needed to carry it out. Most people don’t see a lot happening behind the scenes but the Town Clerk position is really important in terms of keeping land records correct and entering transactions into the computer and land record books. The records are used by landowners, surveyors, realtors, title researchers, closing attorneys and others. She understands the responsibility and is ready to take it on. A big portion of the job is supervising elections. She wants that to be inclusive, accurate and lawful. She will treat everyone who comes into the office with respect and greet them with a smile. The position is about skill and experience. It is not political and she asks for peoples’ votes.

Erin Kehoe was not on the call.

**Town Treasurer – 3 years**

There are 2 candidates on the ballot – Kathy Scott and Erin Kehoe

Kathy Scott introduced herself. She has been Treasurer for 3 years and Assistant Treasurer for 6 years before that. She likes her work and does it well. The Town has numerous grants and it is very important to get the grants sorted and filed properly in order to get properly reimbursed. She would appreciate your vote.

Erin Kehoe was not on the call.

 **Selectperson – 3 years**

There are 4 candidates on the ballot – Ron Cohen, Asa Goodband, Erin Kehoe and Michael Pelton

 Ron Cohen introduced himself. He has lived in Windham for almost 2 years, having come from

Long Island. He is retired and trying to start a farm here. Experience-wise, he feels he could bring a lot to the Town. He was a construction manager for a large national company and dealt with several Towns in several different States. He has seen different ways of handling construction and regulations and feels he could bring a lot to the table. He would also like to meet everyone and feels that community is very important. Unfortunately with Covid, we have all been separated for a long time. He would love to have the opportunity to work with the people of the Town.

George thanked Ron for expressing interest in running for this position. Wonders what Ron thinks about being in Town a little longer before taking this on. Is he connected enough to the people of Windham to understand their points of view and represent them?

Ron responded that unfortunately he hasn’t lived in this community very long but that doesn’t mean he would be unwilling to do the job. There is no requirement for living here a certain amount of time before doing the job. George thanked him again for running and looks forward to meeting and interacting with Ron.

 Asa Goodband was not on the call.

Erin Kehoe appeared to be on the call but was having computer difficulties. We’ll come back to her if she gets a better connection.

Michael Pelton was raised in Windham, left for a fair amount of time and came back to raise his family. Feels it’s imperative to listen to and respect the Town. His goal is to think about the future and build the Town into a cohesive community. If anyone has questions, they can look at his article in the News & Notes or contact him.

**Lister – 3 years**

There is 1 candidate on the ballot – Bill Casey

Bill Casey said that he is interested in helping the Town. He saw that there was an opening and would like to do his duty. He has spoken with Lister Russ Cumming, has seen some internet courses about the job. He is computer literate and thinks he will be able to do a decent job.

**Auditor – 3 years**

There is 1 candidate on the ballot – Pat McLaine

Pat McLaine indicated that she has been serving as an Auditor since the 2nd half of last year. She is interested in continuing to serve the Town and brings good attention to detail, concern about fiscal responsibility and a good set of computer skills.

**Constable – 3 years**

No candidates have come forward. If anyone is interested, they can start a write-in campaign.

**Delinquent Tax Collector – 1 year**

There are 2 candidates on the ballot – Russ Cumming and Paul Wyman

Russ Cumming said that he has been a Lister in Town for 4 years with 2 years left in that office. He feels that the key to collection of delinquent taxes is to have frequent contact with the taxpayer (either by mail or phone) and to suggest reasonable ways to help the taxpayer fund their delinquent taxes. The last thing he wants to do is to have a tax sale, so again, feels it’s important to work out a settlement plan.

Paul Wyman was not on the call.

**Windham Center Cemetery Commission – 5 years**

There are no candidates on the ballot.

Bill Casey announced that he has started a write-in campaign for this position and is looking for your votes. His father was a Cemetery Commissioner in their hometown for over 30 years and Bill would like to step up to this position.

Crystal Corriveau asked for information on what a Cemetery Commissioner is/does. Maureen said that she will look at the governing statutes and send that out to Crystal.

**West Windham Cemetery Commission – 5 years**

There are no candidates on the ballot.

**North Windham Cemetery Commission – 5 years**

There are no candidates on the ballot.

**Library Trustee – 5 years**

There is 1 candidate on the ballot – Maureen Bell

Maureen Bell is running for a 2nd term. She loves to read and is looking forward to having more time to do so. She likes the Book Club discussions and would like your vote.

Sarah Edelman asked what programs we have come across for home schooling. As far as Maureen knew, there have been none. If Sarah would like her to look into it, she will.

Library Trustee, John Hoover, said that while we don’t have any formal programs, we do have books and resources for young people. Although our material is not extensive, anyone is welcome to come to the Library and check out material that could be used in home schooling. The Library is open to requests.

George Dutton had a question about a person holding multiple positions and what the ruling is on that. Maureen explained that there is a statute involved. A Selectperson cannot be the Treasurer. Those are incompatible offices. A Selectperson can be the Town Clerk and the Treasurer can also be the Town Clerk. Those are compatible offices.

Abby Pelton wondered what we could do in lieu of Erin Kehoe being able to get online with us. Maureen suggested Erin could use a landline to join us. Ellen McDuffie volunteered to read Erin’s statement from the New & Notes. Maureen said that as long as there were no objections that would be OK. There were several people nodding in agreement. Ellen said that Erin wrote 1 statement for all positions and read it:

“Hello to my Friends and Neighbors of Windham. This year I am running for multiple positions in our town government, Treasurer, Selectboard, and Town Clerk. For the last 23 years I have been employed by Centerplate/Sodexo in the Hospitality field. The better part of my employment has been as General Manager within Centerplate, though I have worked in many different supporting roles in numerous accounts. I graduated with an A.S. in Culinary Arts and a BS in Management from Johnson & Wales in Providence, Rhode Island. I have started my MBA program within the school as well.

In September, my husband and I have recently decided to go in a different direction with our careers, we have started our own Electrical contracting business based right here in Windham.

In my previous position, I was charged with oversight of all areas of operations of the Food and Beverage Department while serving as the hub of communication to support profitability within an operating budget.

Within the duties of my previous position, I established daily priorities and directed the ongoing activities with department heads. Some key areas of my former role that would carry over to all three town positions are business administration, hospitality, sales, accounting, and cash management. I have been responsible for maintaining the financial performance with effective controls of expenses through the development and implementation of budgets while maintaining transparency with the process of work.

On March 1st, I hope to have your vote for Treasurer, Selectboard, and Town Clerk; one (1) or all three (3) positions.

Thank you for your consideration.”

This is where the video recording was stopped and immediately started again.

**West River Modified Unified School Director – 2 years remaining of a 3-year term ending 2024**

There is 1 candidate on the ballot – Crystal Corriveau

Crystal Corriveau thinks it’s important to have a parent of a student in the school on the Board and to get someone from Windham more involved on the West River Board, representing our students in grades 7-12. Crystal has 2 students in the school.

Antje Ruppert indicated that Rory Rosselot is running as a write-in candidate. She just recently sent an email to the community expressing her interest and motivation for running.

1. Review and discuss Article 4: Shall the voters authorize the Town Treasurer to collect current taxes?

Ellen McDuffie asked if the tax collection date would move back to October 31, as it was November 1 last year. Michael pointed out that is covered in the next question.

1. Review and discuss Article 5: Shall the voters set the due date for property taxes as postmarked on or before October 31, 2022?

There was no discussion on this article.

1. Review and discuss Article 6: Shall the voters authorize General Fund Expenditures of $236,413 of which $229,662 shall be raised by taxes and $6,751 shall be applied from FY 2021 non-tax revenue and budget surplus?

There was no discussion on this article.

1. Review and discuss Article 7: Shall the voters authorize Roads Budget Expenditures of $488,568 of which $482,500 shall be raised by taxes and $6,048 shall be applied from FY 2021 budget surplus?

There was no discussion on this article.

1. Review and discuss Article 8: Shall the voters appropriate $30,000 for the New Road Machinery Fund?

There was no discussion on this article.

1. Review and discuss Article 9: Shall the voters appropriate $90,000 for Repaving and $15,000 for the Bridges and Large Structures Fund?

Antje Ruppert said she’d like to give a big salute to the Road Crew for doing such a good job. She really appreciates the work they do to keep the roads clear and in great shape.

Joyce Cumming jumped back to Article 7 and poined out that the numbers don’t add up. $482,500 raised by taxes and $6,048 applied from the FY21 budget = $488,548, not $488,568. This turns out to be a typographical error on the Warning. If you look at page 21 of the Town Report, you can see the figure is $482,520, not $482,500.

1. Review and discuss Article 10: Shall the voters establish a Maintenance & Improvement Reserve Fund for The Meeting House and transfer $5,000 from FY 2021 non-tax revenue and budget surplus?

Ellen McDuffie asked that if this does not get approved, where would the $5,000 go? Kathy Scott replied that the money would just go back into the General Fund.

1. Discuss other non-binding business (if applicable)

Bill Dunkel said that after attending many Selectboard meetings, he can say that the Board is very diligent. They are good stewards of the Town’s money and they look toward the future. He feels that Maureen has done a great job and very few people have any idea how much time she has given to the work of the Town. Kord thanked Maureen also, for her hard work as Chair of the Selectboard and even for doing the minutes, which are not her job. Crystal Corriveau echoed the sentiments saying that even though they’ve butted heads a few times, Maureen has always been very helpful whenever Crystal needed anything and she appreciates all the hard work Maureen has done. She is leaving big shoes to fill. Crystal went on to say that even though she wrote to Michael to thank him, she wanted to say how much we’re all going to miss him in his job as Town Clerk. She’s glad Ellen will stay on, but says that both Maureen and Michael will be very much missed.

Kord expressed his gratitude to Michael also, for all the hard work he’s done as Town Clerk and the pleasure to get to know him a little better.

Kermit Blackwood wanted to know in the scheme of the whole world and the politicization of various things, what do Michael Pelton and the other gentleman from Long Island want to do. Who is more interested in the heritage and enduring legacy? Who is more interested in their real estate investment? What are your motivations? Ron Cohen was not on the call. Michael Pelton expressed his desire to bring the community together regardless of political views. The community should work together to represent us and plan for the future which includes supporting children and all families. Look at his conceptual Alliance Plan on YouTube at Stony Mountain Farm.

Michael Pelton asked if we would be talking about the School Board budget or the School Board election. Maureen indicated that the School Board would be holding their own meeting to discuss this. Someone said it is scheduled for Thursday.

There being no other business, Kord moved that the meeting be adjourned. There was no further discussion and all voted in favor to adjourn at 2:34 PM.

Next regular Selectboard meeting is scheduled for February 21 at 5:30 pm