

Amherst School District Ways and Means Committee
Meeting Minutes
Brick School Meeting Room
Wednesday, January 3, 2024, 6:00 PM

1 Attendees: Caitlin Thompson, Chris Goodrich, Matt Comstock, Matt Borden, Caleb Baird, Peter
2 Maresco, and Brittany Donovan. Brian Coogan was absent.

3 Also in attendance was Amy Facey, Ellen Grudzien, Tom Gauthier, and Michael Berry.
4

5 **1. Prior meeting minutes**
6

7 *A MOTION was made by Matt Comstock and SECONDED by Chris Goodrich to accept the*
8 *emails exchanges in which a quorum of members were present as part of the minutes.*

9 *Vote: 7-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*
10

11 *A MOTION was made by Matt Comstock and SECONDED by Chris Goodrich to approve the*
12 *meeting minutes of December 12, 2023, with one correction.*

13 *Vote: 7-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*
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15 **2. Draft 3 Budget Discussion**
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17 At the ASD school board meeting, the board voted to move forward with the draft 3 budget. The
18 main drivers of the increase are health care and staff salary increases which were voted on by the
19 town last year. Peter expressed some concern in regard to how this budget increase compares to
20 the Souhegan School District increase. Amy and Mike discussed how the Souhegan School
21 District is in contract year which means that there are no contract increases for teacher salaries
22 included in the budget, hence the much lower increase. The ASD budget at this point is
23 essentially only seeing increases from the teacher contract increase that was voted upon last year
24 and the health/dental increases.
25

26 **3. Other Business**

27 The group discussed scheduling voting for the warrant articles. This will occur January 15th at
28 5pm. The group will also assign members to write a description for each warrant as to why the
29 group voted that way for the deliberative session.

30 The group had a more general discussion about the election process and season as a whole and
31 the town feedback over the last two years.

32 There was also discussion about the Wilkins project and whether or not it makes sense to move
33 forward with this warrant article this year or come back to it next year.

34 The meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM
35

36 Minutes record by: Matt Comstock