

# Town of Washington

## Special Town Meeting

February 23, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

### MINUTES & TRANSCRIPT

First Selectman, James Brinton, requested nominations for Moderator. Mary Anne Greene nominated Hank Martin with second by Linda Frank. With no other nominations, Hank Martin was unanimously approved.

Moderator: Thanked everyone for coming, noted short agenda, and asked the Clerk, Mary Anne Greene, to read the Warning.

Clerk: The voters and electors of the Town of Washington are hereby warned that a Special Town Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 7:30p.m. at Bryan Memorial Town Hall, Washington Depot, Connecticut to consider and act upon the following:

- To approve the ARPA Fund Committee recommendations.
- To approve the Town of Washington's Capital Improvement Plan.
- To approve the sale of the Johnson Property on Scofield Hill Road.

Dated at Washington, Connecticut this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023.

James L. Brinton, Jay Hubelbank, Dean Sarjeant  
Board of Selectmen

Moderator: We have three items on the agenda. For each we'll start with making the resolution then we'll have a second. Comments or questions can be made during discussion. Jim, will you please start with the first resolution?

Jim Brinton: Resolved to approve the following ARPA Fund Committee recommendations:

- \$5,000.00 for the After School Arts Program (ASAP).
- \$30,000.00 for the Washington Economic Development Committee for Broadband.
- \$75,000.00 for the Housatonic Valley Association Stormwater Project.
- \$18,250.00 for Judy Black Park Air Conditioning System.
- \$7,000.00 for the Washington Housing Commission Feasibility Study at 77 Baldwin Hill Road.
- \$8,800.00 for the Washington Business Association to improve its Website.
- \$10,000.00 the Washington Friends of Music, Inc. Summer Concerts.

Moderator: Could I have a second for that motion?

Art Peterson: Second.

Moderator: So, we're now in discussion. Anybody that would like to ask a question or make a comment, please raise your hand. I will recognize you to get questions answered. Janet?

Janet Hill: What's the Housatonic Storm Water?

Moderator: Did you all hear the question? Now ask your question.

Janet Hill: What is the Housatonic Storm Water project?

Jim Brinton: It's HVA and they're both culvert projects here in town that HVA has taken on. I should explain a little bit about this whole process. These are not the only grants we're giving out. Last year the Board of Selectmen appointed an ARPA review committee that did a very comprehensive and thorough application process. These are the applications of the grants that were run through and vetted by the ARPA committee, vetted by the Board of Selectmen and approved, and vetted by the Board of Finance and approved.

Moderator: Other questions or comments?

Linda Frank: Was there a process where notice was given to all the organizations to submit proposals?

Jim Brinton: It wasn't a notice to every organization. We just didn't have that bandwidth to make sure it reached everybody, but it was put on the website. It was put out in an email blast. The applications were put on the website and the newspaper.

Moderator: I'm not seeing any hands. Are we ready to vote. We have a motion on the floor to approve the ARPA items listed that Jim just mentioned. The motion was made in bulk so all in favor of approving the ARPA fund committee recommendations that have been identified and mentioned, please say aye.

Audience: Aye.

Moderator: Any opposed? Any abstentions?

Audience: [silence]

Moderator: Motion carries unanimously. Thank you very much. On to the next item which would be Washington's Capital Improvement Plan.

Jim Brinton: Resolved to approve the Town of Washington's Capital Improvement Plan.

Art Peterson: Second.

Moderator: Did I hear a second? Great, thank you. We have a motion and a second. Any questions about the Washington Improvement Plan?

Judy Gorra: Could you explain it?

Jim Brinton: It's a guideline, a long-term guideline that the town goes by. It's a fluid document. You're not voting on appropriating any money for any of these capital items tonight. This simply allows us to have this capital plan in place and approved to access state grants. So, any expenditures that go towards this plan will have to be approved at a town meeting.

Moderator: Furthermore, once this plan is approved, as I understand it, the town is not committed to stick with it 100%. It can change the plan based upon changing conditions. Anything that is put on the table for funds has to come back to a town meeting specifically. Any questions? Are we ready to vote?

Jim Brinton: If any part of the plan is changed, it is not ratified until it's approved at a town meeting. So, the Board of Selectmen can't change what was voted on tonight without town approval.

Moderator: Any further questions or comments? All in favor of approving the Town of Washington Capital Improvement Plan please say aye.

Audience: Aye.

Moderator: Any opposed? Any abstentions? One abstention. Jim, the third item to approve the sale of the Johnson property at Scofield Hill Road?

Jim Brinton: I would like to make a motion to postpone this resolution indefinitely.

Mary Anne Greene: Second.

Jim Brinton: The rationale behind this is that the property owner simply couldn't be ready in time to do this. Three years ago, we purchased this property to complete a portion of Mygatt Road. The property owner wants to sell the home, realized through the deed that part of the right of way includes leach fields, which is not to say the road is on septic. She just deeds that land back in order to sell the home.

Moderator: Let me explain what postpone indefinitely means. It means that it will not be taken up tonight, but it can be taken up at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen at any future town meeting, the next one or any one thereafter.

Postpone indefinitely is the proper motion to make and I find it to be in order when the paperwork for a particular item is just not ready. So any questions on that? We have to vote on it the same way because the item is on our warning, so we have to deal with it in some way. Postponing indefinitely is a good way to do it. Some people get confused with the concept of tabling. Table doesn't mean to take it up at a subsequent meeting. It means take it up later at the same meeting. That's not what we want to do tonight because it's not ready. Any questions about motion to postpone indefinitely or what the motion actually means? Did we get a second?

Mary Anne Greene: Yes, I did.

Moderator: We now have a second. Is there any discussion, questions, comments, anything about this? Please raise your hand if you are in favor of postponing item number three on the agenda, the sale of the Johnson property by postponing indefinitely. Please say aye.

Audience: Aye.

Moderator: Thank you, any opposed? Any abstentions? We are done with our business. I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Dave Werkhoven: So moved.

Moderator: Second?

Michele Williams: Second.

Moderator: All in favor please say aye. We are adjourned, thank you.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

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I, Sheila Silvernail, certify to the best of my ability the foregoing is an accurate record based on provided notes and audio recording of the Town of Washington's Special Town Meeting on Feb 23, 2023.



Dated at Washington, CT this 24<sup>th</sup> day of Feb 2023.