

# Town of Washington

Special Town Meeting

March 30, 2023

## Motions, Minutes & Transcript

First Selectman James Brinton called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. He entertained a motion for a moderator.

Motion: To nominate Jim Brinton as Moderator. By Mary Anne Greene

Second: Jay Hubelbank

Vote: Unanimously approved.

Moderator: Mary Anne, would you read the Warning?

Clerk: WARNING, TOWN OF WASHINGTON, SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The voters and electors of the Town of Washington are hereby warned that a Special Town Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 6:00p.m. at Bryan Memorial Town Hall, Washington Depot, Connecticut to consider and act upon the following:

- To approve an ex-budget appropriation at the request of the Board of Finance.
- To approve the ARPA Fund Committee recommendations.
- To approve the sale of the Johnson Property on Scofield Hill Road.

Dated at Washington, Connecticut this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023.

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

Moderator: We'll read off the resolution. We'll have a second and then we'll have discussion on the resolution. If you want to ask a question or make a comment, we ask that you take the microphone, state your name and where you live. We'll go from there.

Jim Brinton: RESOLVED: To approve an ex-budget appropriation to the Zoning Commission in the amount of \$12,000 for legal fees. Is there a second?

Janet Hill: Second.

Jim Brinton: Our zoning commission, all of our land use commissions, deal oftentimes with very complex applications and the process can be daunting. So we often call-in legal assistance. This is just such a situation. Zoning has two very complex applications in front of them. They've been ongoing for a

long time and they need this legal assistance. The Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance unanimously recommended this as we recognize the importance of having that assistance as they need it. Any questions or comments?

Mary Weber: Is that enough?

Jim Brinton: It is. When Zoning looked at that number, they wanted to make sure they had enough to get through the end of the fiscal year. So, that should do it. Anyone else?

Ralph Averill: Ralph Averill. I live at 59 East Shore Road. I was formerly on Zoning Commission. The kind of legal help before the application is infinitely cheaper than the kind of legal help the town's going to have to get after the fact. I endorse voting for this.

Jim Brinton: Anyone else? We ready to vote? All in favor signify by raising your hand please. Any opposed?

Vote: The motion passed with one opposition.

Jim Brinton: RESOLVED: To approve the following ARPA Fund Committee recommendations:

- \$25,000 for Pilobolus.
- \$25,000 for Shakesperience.
- \$10,000 for Spring Hill Arts Gathering.
- \$65,000 for Steep Rock Association.
- \$10,000 for United Way of Western Connecticut.
- \$65,000 for the Washington Art Association.
- \$85,000 for the Washington Community Housing Trust.

Mary Anne Greene: Second.

Jim Brinton: Any discussion? Questions? These are all again, at the last town meeting these were all vetted through the Board of Selectmen, the town attorney, the ARPA Committee, the Board of Finance before they get to this point for approval. These were the initial recommendations of our ARPA review committee. There were still some outstanding questions. We got those questions answered and everybody at the various boards were comfortable with this.

Irene Allan: Would you break out ARPA as the anacronym for its full title?

Jim Brinton: ARPA is American Rescue? It's a federal program. I'll email it to you. It was due to Covid, but immediately prior to the ARPA Review Committee

convening, Treasury issue guidance opened it wide open. So initially there were three or four main topics it could fall under. Any other questions? All in favor signify by raising your hand. Opposed?

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Brinton: RESOLVED: To approve the sale of the Johnson property at 70 Scofield Hill Road.

I would like to make a resolution that we postpone this indefinitely.

Mary Anne Greene: Second.

Jim Brinton: The reason behind this is that we are still waiting on the surveyors to redraw the landline. This is the second time it's been on the agenda and we're trying to move it along as quickly as possible, but that's where it lies. Any questions? All in favor? Opposed?

Vote: Passed unanimously.

Jim Brinton: I make a motion to adjourn.

Ted Bent: Second.

Jim Brinton: All in favor?

Vote: Passed unanimously.

Jim Brinton: Thank you all for coming out.

Adjourned: At 6:07 p.m.

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I, Sheila Silvernail, certify to the best of my ability this is an accurate record based on provided notes and audio recording of the Town of Washington's Special Town Meeting on Mar 30, 2023.



Dated at Washington, CT this 31<sup>st</sup> day of Mar 2023.