

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the twenty-ninth day of February 2024 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Michael Geary at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833.

PRESENT: Michael Geary, Scott Bill Hirst, Robert Burns; Town Manager Brian Rosso and Town Clerk Marita Murray. Sharon Davis arrived late and left before meeting ended. Stephen Moffitt, Jr. was absent.

LAND TRUST

Sarah Windsor, Chair of the Land Trust was present. The Land Trust was looking to be level funded at \$14,000.

WOOD RIVER HEALTH SERVICES

Alison Croke, CEO of Wood River Health Services was present. She provided Wood River Health Services' annual report to the Council and noted they were looking for an increase in funding. Wood River's focus has been to grow their staff, as well as their physical footprint, to accommodate the growing needs of the community. New primary care patients can be seen within thirty days, but dental patients are on a wait list due to lack of staff. They have opened their new 9,000 sq. ft. addition, which is two floors and includes their administrative team, five rooms for behavioral health treatment, and a large community room, which can be used by non-profit organizations free of charge. Also in that addition is a physical therapy provider, a space for radiology and two new exam rooms. They have also hired various staff members, such as physicians' assistants, nurses, and medical assistants. Lastly, Ms. Croke noted that they purchased a van with a grant which is used to provide transportation for people who need help getting to appointments and they opened a dental only site inside the Block Island Health Center.

ASHAWAY LIBRARY

Heather Field, Library Director of Ashaway Library was present and requested level funding.

LANGWORTHY LIBRARY

Heidi Matczak, President of the Board of Directors for Langworthy Library was present and requested level funding.

HOPE VALLEY AMBULANCE

Patrick Hawkins, Treasurer of the Hope Valley Ambulance was present. He advised that they were requesting a \$6,000 increase. They were in the process of switching billing companies in hopes of seeing an increase in revenue. They had to essentially cut all extracurricular activities from their budget in order to pay a little more for payroll because they are losing people. Councilor Davis asked Mr. Hawkins if he would consider asking the Hope Valley Wyoming Fire District to change their Charter. He advised that he had spoken with Chief Lee and there was no interest in changing the Charter. It was decided that the Council would revisit this request at a later date.

ASHAWAY AMBULANCE

Eric Perrin and Nick Vetelino were present from Ashaway Ambulance Association. They requested an increase of \$6,000 as well, noting that in 2023, they responded to 682 calls, the most calls in the history of the department since 1972, a lot of which was mutual aid. Last year, they billed out \$572,530 and were only reimbursed \$47,710. Councilor Geary wished to revisit this request at a later date.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND CIP/DEBT SERVICE

There was no discussion regarding General Government and CIP/Debit services.

WARRANT ITEMS

There was no discussion regarding warrant items.

The workshop closed at 7:20 p.m.

Marita D. Murray
Town Clerk

Sydney Fernandes
Deputy Town Clerk