

**Minutes**  
**Bar Harbor Town Council/Warrant Committee**  
**Joint Budget Workshop**  
**January 24, 2023**

**I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 p.m.**

In attendance were **Councilors** Matthew Hochman, Valerie Peacock, Gary Friedmann, Joe Minutolo, Erin Cough, and Jill Goldthwait (arrived after a vote to excuse absences); and

**Warrant Committee members** present J. Berberian, B. Chaplin, C. Chappell, C. Cough, K. DesVeaux, M. Kelly, S. Libby, L. Lopez, B. Reece (remote), A. Sasner, E. Salvatore, E. Sassaman, C. Smith (remote), K. St. Germain. Absent excused: J. Young.

Ms. Peacock offered opening remarks. She said she has been looking forward to the budget season. Gathered tonight is a large group working on what it takes to run our town. She said each of the numbers in the budget book represents something that we see as important for Bar Harbor; this conversation and this process is fundamental to our form of democracy. Over the coming weeks, we'll look at the numbers and hear the stories behind them. We'll make some hard decisions, but we'll do it together and do it collaboratively. She asked for a show of hands in the room to demonstrate who has been through how many budget reviews before—many have more than a decade of experience. She said it's helpful to know that we have all this experience in the room. She also said Town Manager Kevin Sutherland isn't with us tonight. Finance Director Sarah Gilbert and Town Clerk Liz Graves are jumping in to help present. She thanked Communications Coordinator Maya Caines for setting up the room and the technology and other behind-the-scenes work, and Mr. Sutherland and staff who have already done so much work to prepare for this process.

**A. Excused absences**—Mr. Hochman with second by Ms. Cough, moved to excuse Councilors Jeff Dobbs as provided by Town Charter section C-12.B(1)(d). Roll Call Vote:

<u>Minutolo</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Cough</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Peacock</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Hochman</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Friedmann</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Motion passed 5-0.</u>	

Seth Libby called roll for the Warrant Committee.

**II. INTRODUCTION OF THE FY24 BUDGET**—Council Chair Val Peacock, Finance Director Sarah Gilbert and Town Clerk Liz Graves gave an overview of the budget review process and budget binder documents and answered questions.

**III. EDUCATION BUDGET PRESENTATION**—Conners Emerson School Principal Heather Webster presented and answered questions. School System Finance Director Nancy Thurlow also participated in the conversation.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**—Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. Roll Call Vote:

Hochman Y

Peacock Y

Friedmann Y

Minutolo Y

Goldthwait Y

Cough Y

Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Libby declared the Warrant Committee adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

---

Elizabeth Graves, Town Clerk