Call to Order

Chairman John Rachek opened the hearing at 8:00 PM.

Mr. Rachek stated that the budget as published in the legal notice has not been approved yet and it is still being developed. He reviewed the published budget. The Board of Education budget is $40,691,036 representing a 2.9% increase; General Government is $21,690,435 representing a 14% increase due to the WPCA being included in the budget beginning this year as directed by the auditors. Funding for the WPCA budget comes from the users. The Capital Outlay budget is $1,539,870 representing a decrease of 27%. The total budget as presented is $63,921,341 or an increase of 1.32% after removing the WPCA. The increase in the grand list is 1.27% which leaves a mill rate to fund this at 33.6 mills which is a 1 mill increase over this year. The Finance Office, Board of Education and town staff have worked on reductions to bring this budget in at zero mill increase. On Thursday at budget deliberations the Board of
Finance will bring this budget to a zero mill increase. He thanked the departments for helping to come in with the zero increases and reductions to make this possible.

He then opened it up to questions. There were no specific questions. Dr. Nicol, Superintendent of Schools stated that there were tough decisions made to come to this budget and the he recognized the great partnership between the Town and the Board of Education. He was aware that there were a significant amount of sacrifices made on both sides. The Windermere Building Project is being held back in consideration of taxpayers at this time. The itemized reductions unanimously approved by the Board of Education last week was $1.33 million and he is confident that the quality of the education will be held. He stated that taxpayers should be proud of their elected officials and staff.

MOVED (HARDING) SECONDED (BUSSE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 8:25 PM.

MOVED (PINTO) SECONDED (HARDING) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori Smith, Recording Secretary