

**Town of Ira**  
**Select Board Informational Meeting Minutes**  
**Date: March 3, 2025**

Present: Nathan Hewitt, Darin May, Tim Carter, Mary Mitiguy

TOPIC	DISCUSSION
Call meeting to order	Nathan called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
Review and accept agenda	Tim made a motion to approve the agenda. Darin 2 <sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.
Introduction of Mary Mitiguy, meeting facilitator	Nathan gave an introduction of the meeting and introduced Mary Mitiguy to facilitate the meeting.
a. Meeting Guidance/Rules	Mary reviewed the expectation of this informational only meeting and provided guidance on how to ask questions during the meeting.
Article 1: To elect town officers as required by law	Mary read the article and reminded the meeting participants to come out to vote tomorrow. No comments.
Review and Discuss Article 2: Shall the voters authorize payment of real and personal property taxes to the Town Treasurer on or before October 21, 2025?	Mary read the article and asked for questions or comments. No comments.
Review and Discuss Article 3: Shall the voters authorize the total expenditure of \$323,247 for the Town General Fund and Highway Fund for the fiscal year 7/1/25– 6/30/26, for which \$222,680.01 shall be raised by taxes and \$100,566.99 by non-property tax revenue?	Mary read the article and invited comments from the select board. Madeline Kerstetter asked what was “non-tax revenue”. Karen Davis responded on behalf of the board.
Review and Discuss Article 4: Shall the voters appropriate \$12,000 to be raised by taxes for the Rutland County Sheriff’s Department?	Mary read the article and asked for questions or comments. Bob Toppin asked if this was a reduction from last year. Nathan replied that it was the same. Later in the meeting Nathan clarified that the amount of the article was \$12,000 which was the amount as a line item in the general operation budget from previous years. This year the budget did not include monies for the sheriff, only the amount of this article.
Review and Discuss Article 5: Shall the voters appropriate \$38,650 to the Ira Volunteer Fire Department to provide services to the residents of Ira?	<p>Mary read the article and asked questions or comments. Dan Perry reported that the department has purchased an AED, members have been recently certified in CPR and CPR masks have been placed at the town office and town hall.</p> <p>Bruce Gee and Dan gave a report on the work the department has done to get a proposal from an architect for a new firehouse, civil, mechanical and electrical proposals and researching funding possibilities. There are many variables that are still unknown at this time. Such as the size of a building, length of a loan/ or bond, interest rates and potential grant opportunities. They are working on purchasing 6 +/- acres off Route 133 this spring for a potential location.</p>

	<p>Deb Perry and Madeline Kerstetter asked if they have a cost to build a building. Dan responded that at this time they do not have an exact number but rough estimates from the architect and engineers are between \$250-\$500 a square foot.</p> <p>Deb Perry asked if they could stay on the current property and build or add on to the existing building. Dan responded that they are in a floodplain, so the options are very limited. They would also have to meet the same building criteria and can't change the footprint of the existing building.</p> <p>The department would like to have a special meeting in the fall to present the residents with the expected cost and funding plans.</p> <p>Bruce Gee reminded everyone that the department is always looking for volunteers and there are many ways to volunteer and support the department.</p>
<p>Review and Discuss Article 6: Shall the voter appropriate \$15,000 to the Ira Volunteer Fire Department to go into the reserve fund for the purpose of replacing a fire truck?</p>	<p>Mary read the article and asked for questions or comments. Dan Perry stated that a used tanker was purchased from the Clarendon Fire Department for \$5,000. It is currently being garaged at the Chippenhook Fire House.</p>
<p>Review and Discuss Article 7: Shall the voters exempt from the payment of property taxes, pursuant to 32 V.S.A 3840, the real estate of the Ira Volunteer Fire Department, for a period of five (5) years?</p>	<p>Mary read the article and asked for questions or comments. Jerry Zieller asked if this is something we have been doing in previous years. Dan Perry responded that it is done every 5 years.</p>
<p>Review and Discuss Article 8: Shall the voters appropriate \$3,382 to the Rutland Free Library to provide services to the residents of Ira?</p>	<p>Mary read the article and asked questions or comments. Allyn Kahle, Ira Library Representative, listed the services offered at the library.</p>
<p>Review and Discuss Article 9: Shall the voters appropriate \$973 to the VNA &amp; Hospice of the Southwest Region to provide home care and hospice services to the residents of Ira?</p>	<p>Mary read the article and asked questions or comments. No comments or questions were presented.</p>
<p>Review and Discuss Article 10: Shall the voters appropriate \$500 to the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging to provide elder services to the residents of Ira?</p>	<p>Mary read the article and asked questions or comments. No comments or questions were presented.</p>
<p>Review and Discuss Article 11: Shall the voters appropriate \$375 to the RSVP &amp; Volunteer Center to provide services to the residents of Ira?</p>	<p>Mary read the article and asked questions or comments. No comments or questions were presented.</p>
<p>Review and Discuss Article 12: Shall the voters appropriate \$300 to support the Bird's Eye View?</p>	<p>Mary read the article and asked questions or comments. Allyn encouraged people to provide an email address to have the newsletter email to them to save on printing and postage cost,</p>

Approved 3-25-25

Review and Discuss Article 13: Shall the voters appropriate \$150 to support the Vermont Farmers Food Center to provide services to residents of Ira?	Mary read the article and asked questions or comments. Ben Kerstetter asked what does \$150 get them? Sara listed the many services and programs they offer to, families in our area, schools, RRMC and local producers. In addition to offering a winter/summer farmers market
Discussion of other non-binding business (if applicable)	Mary read asked for comments. No additional business was brought before the board.
Adjourn	Darin made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm. Tim 2 <sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.
I certify that the above is a true and accurate copy of the approval minutes of the board meeting held on March 3, 2025. Recording: Karen Davis. Nathan Hewitt	