

**Town of Ira**  
**Select Board Informational Meeting Minutes**  
**Date: February 28, 2022**

Under Act 172 we are moving to all items being voted by Australian Ballot, the public can attend this Public Informational meeting by: Google Meet: [meet.google.com/vmz-upgj-hft](https://meet.google.com/vmz-upgj-hft) or join by phone: 1 570-427-3287 PIN: 523 105 882#

**There is no physical location for this meeting.**

Present: Jeff Barden, Bob Toppin, Nathan Hewitt, Mary Mitiguy  
 Recording: Nathan Hewitt

TOPIC	DISCUSSION
Call meeting to order	Nathan gave a welcome statement. Nathan called meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
Review and accept agenda	Nathan made a motion to approve the agenda. Bob 2 <sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.
Introduction of Mary Mitiguy, meeting facilitator	Nathan made a motion to appoint Mary Mitiguy as meeting facilitator. Bob 2 <sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.
a. Meeting Guidance/Rules	Mary reviewed the expectation of this informational only meeting and provided guidance on how to ask questions during the meeting.
<u>School Items</u>	
Article 1: To elect school officers as required by law	Mary read the article and reminded the meeting participates to come out to vote tomorrow.
Review and Discuss Article 2: School Budget: Shall the voters of the Ira School District approve the school board to expend \$754,391.72 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? (By Australian Ballot) It is estimated that this proposed budget if approved, will result in education spending of \$17,855 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 9.7 % more than spending for the current year.	Mary read the article and invited comment from the school board and district office. Louis Milazzo, GRCSU Business Manager gave a brief talk about the school budget. And explain that the State Education Surplus could be used to lower the tax rate. Questions or comments were opened to the public. Ben Kerstetter asked if the budget was voted down what would that mean. Louis and Lance Jones, chair Ira School board, explained that Ira really has no control of the budget and if the budget was reduced there could be a chance of running a deficit. A deficit would mean having to borrow funds to cover the school expenses. If the budget was voted down it would also require the election to be done again and that will cost money,
<u>Town Items</u>	
Article 1: To elect town officers as required by law	Mary read the article and reminded the meeting participates to come out to vote tomorrow.
Review and Discuss Article 2: Shall the voters authorize payment of real and personal property taxes to the Town Treasurer on or before October 18, 2022?	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	Mary read the article and invited comment from the select board. Bob gave an overview of the budget. Questions and comments were opened to

<p>\$320,393 for the Town General Fund and Highway Fund for the fiscal year 7/1/22 – 6/30/23, for which \$238,590 shall be raised by taxes and \$81,803 by non-property tax revenue?</p>	<p>the public. Richard Pietryka asked several questions about the road work to be completed on the West Road. Bob responded to his questions.</p>
<p>Review and Discuss Article 4: Shall the voters appropriate \$11,520 to be raised by taxes for the Rutland County Sheriff's Department, in addition to \$12,000 included in the General Fund expenditures in Article 3 above for a total of \$23,520?</p>	<p>Mary read the article and asked for questions or comments. Bob gave a brief review of our contract with Sheriff. Janet Porter called in asking if there was more that could be done with the speeding on Route 4A (Blue Star Drive) near her home. Cacky Dufner-Ayer spoke to the speeding on Route 133 and asked if a blinking caution light could be installed. Madeline Kerstetter asked if the sheriff was patrolling else where in town because she has not seen the sheriff at the church as much. Bob responded to their concerns.</p>
<p>Review and Discuss Article 5: Shall the voters appropriate \$48,550 to the Ira Volunteer Fire Department to provide services to the residents of Ira?</p>	<p>Mary read the article and asked for comment from the Fire Department. David Kerstetter represented the fire department and talked about their budget and the condition of the current fire house. Questions and comments were opened to the public. No comments.</p>
<p>Review and Discuss Article 6: Shall the voters 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 questions or comments. David Kerstetter and Tim Perry talked about the aging trucks. Questions and comments were opened to the public. No comments.</p>
<p>Review and Discuss Article 7: Shall the voters appropriate \$3,007 to the Rutland Free Library to provide services to the residents of Ira?</p>	<p>Mary read the article and asked for questions or comments. Allyn Kahle, Ira Library Representative, talked about what is going on. Bob asked about the current library building and if they are still concerning moving to another location. Allyn responded to questions.</p>
<p>Review and Discuss Article 8: 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 for questions or comments. No comments.</p>
<p>Review and Discuss Article 9: Shall the voters appropriate \$300 to the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging to provide elder services to the residents of Ira?</p>	<p>Mary read the article and asked for questions or comments. No comments.</p>
<p>Review and Discuss Article 10: 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 for questions or comments. No comments.</p>
<p>Review and Discuss Article 11: Shall the voters appropriate \$250 to support the Bird's Eye View?</p>	<p>Mary read the article and asked for questions or comments. No comments.</p>
<p>Review and Discuss Article 12: Shall the voters appropriate \$250 to support The Parent County Parent Child Center to support integrate Whole Family Services?</p>	<p>Mary read the article and asked for questions or comments. No comments.</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>Bob and Nathan thanked everyone for participating in the meeting. Nathan made a motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm. Bob 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.</p>

Approved 3-15-22

<p>In my capacity as a member of the Ira Select Board, I certify that the above is a true and accurate copy of the approval minutes of the board meeting held on February 28, 2022.</p>	
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