

TOWN OF WELD  
23 MILL STREET  
P. O. BOX 87  
WELD, MAINE 04285-0087  
Phone: 207-585-2348 | Fax: 207-585-2540  
e-mail: [townclerk@weld-maine.org](mailto:townclerk@weld-maine.org)  
Website – weld-maine.org

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## MEETING MINUTES

**Board/Committee:** Special Town Meeting **Date:** May 29, 2026 **Time:** 6:00 PM **Location:** Weld Town Hall

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Richard Doughty.

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### 2. MEMBERS PRESENT

- Richard Doughty (Moderator)
  - Steve Conant
  - Lisa Miller
  - Dina Walker
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### 3. MEMBERS ABSENT

None

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### 4. OTHERS PRESENT

- Dan Smith, 40 People Lane
  - Additional residents and townspeople (total vote count reflected 35 attendees at final vote)
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## 5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Not addressed during this meeting.

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## 6. OLD BUSINESS

Not addressed during this meeting.

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## 7. NEW BUSINESS

The meeting was convened to address six articles as outlined below.

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## 8. APPLICATIONS REVIEWED

Not applicable to this meeting.

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## 9. PUBLIC HEARING / PUBLIC COMMENT

### Regarding Article Five – Expenditure Authorization Over \$10,000:

During discussion of Article Five, the following public comments were recorded:

- **Lise Bofinger** expressed concern regarding the town's failure to act on prior advice received regarding the wording of the expenditure authorization article, noting that the current situation — requiring a special town meeting to approve routine budgeted expenditures — could have been avoided.
- **Steve Conant** acknowledged that a drafting error was made in the original article at the 2026 Annual Town Meeting. The article, as passed, required town approval for any expenditure over \$10,000, including budgeted line items, rather than limiting approval requirements to reserve fund expenditures as intended. He confirmed that revised language had been developed in consultation with the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) and that another special town meeting would be required to amend the article accordingly.
- **Dan Smith** expressed concern that the \$10,000 threshold was too low given current costs, citing examples such as road salt and zero-turn mowers. He stated his trust in

elected officials and town employees and encouraged the community to engage more fully at annual town meetings to avoid the need for repeated special meetings.

- **Dina Walker** clarified that an emergency Select Board meeting had been held immediately prior to this Special Town Meeting, specifically to address amending the expenditure article, so that future similar meetings would not be necessary. She noted that articles are not permanent and are re-voted annually, and that actions had already been initiated to correct the issue going forward.
- **Speaker 1 (name to be confirmed)** stated support for the \$10,000 threshold, recommending that the town plan expenditures proactively at annual town meetings, with special town meetings reserved for truly extraordinary circumstances.
- **Moderator Richard Doughty** noted that the \$10,000 threshold would be addressed at the next town meeting when the related article is brought forward for amendment.

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## 10. MOTIONS, SECONDS, AND VOTES

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### ARTICLE TWO

**Purpose:** To appropriate \$35,000 from the 2026 budget year under General Government Line E-10-100-21 (Reevaluation) into a non-lapsing reserve account for the purpose of saving toward a town-wide property reevaluation. The estimated total cost of the reevaluation is \$104,880, to be conducted by John D. O'Donnell and Associates, Incorporated, commencing Summer/Fall 2027.

**Note:** This amendment was necessary to correct the funding amount specified in the 2026 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The warrant language had authorized \$70,000; however, the intended appropriation supported by both the Select Board and the Budget Committee was \$35,000. Approval of this amendment aligned the article with the planned budget.

- **Motion:** Made and seconded.
- **Discussion:** None.
- **Vote:** Ayes carried. Article passed.

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### ARTICLE THREE

**Purpose:** To authorize a payment of \$2,628.34 to Caldewood Engineering LLC for the LRAP Kennedy Bridge Repair/Replacement project, from LRAP General Fund Account G-01-700-00, as final payment on the Kennedy Bridge Project invoice dated February 23, 2026.

- **Motion:** So moved by Sean Minear.
- **Second:** Confirmed.
- **Discussion:** None.

- **Vote:** Unanimous. Article passed.
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## ARTICLE FOUR

**Purpose:** To authorize the Public Works Department to purchase the following equipment:

- One (1) 48-inch tilt bucket
- One (1) 48-inch flail mower/brush cutter
- One (1) 8' x 8.5' x 25' trailer for the 2023 excavator

Funding to be drawn as follows:

- Up to \$27,000 from 2026 Annual Town Meeting Planning Workbook Line E-31-500-00 (Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance)
- Up to \$2,085.34 from Line E-31-500-09 (Public Works 2023 Excavator)
- **Total not to exceed:** \$29,085.34

**Note:** This article did not request new funding. It served to clarify the specific equipment intended for purchase under the previously appropriated Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance budget. A typographical error in the article text (extra zero) was acknowledged by the Moderator; the intended total was confirmed as \$29,085.34.

- **Motion:** So moved by Sean Minear.
  - **Second:** Confirmed.
  - **Discussion:** None.
  - **Vote:** Ayes carried. Article passed.
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## ARTICLE FIVE

**Purpose:** To authorize the Town of Weld Treasurer to pay the following expenditures exceeding \$10,000:

| Item | Description                                                                 | Amount      |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| A    | Maine Health Franklin Memorial Hospital – Ambulance Contract (May–December) | \$15,295.00 |
| B    | Communications Consulting Radios (May)                                      | \$10,629.60 |
| C    | RSU 9 Monthly Payment – April                                               | \$54,992.20 |
| D    | RSU 9 Monthly Payment – May                                                 | \$54,992.20 |
| E    | RSU 9 Monthly Payment – June (estimated)                                    | \$55,000.00 |
| F    | RSU 9 Monthly Payment – July (estimated)                                    | \$55,000.00 |

| Item | Description                                    | Amount      |
|------|------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| G    | Androscoggin Bank 2015 Ford – Payment Due June | \$13,097.87 |
| H    | Kennedy Bridge Bond – Payment Due October      | \$38,860.65 |
| I    | Weld Winter Wildcats Grant Reimbursement       | \$18,241.75 |

**Note:** This article did not request new funding. It served to clarify that these expenditures were approved at the 2026 Annual Town Meeting and to authorize the required payments exceeding \$10,000.

- **Motion:** So moved by Laurie Pratt.
- **Second:** Confirmed.
- **Discussion:** See Section 9 – Public Comment above.
- **Vote:** Ayes carried. Article passed.

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## ARTICLE SIX

**Purpose:** To authorize the Select Board to borrow necessary funds from time to time, to be repaid by federal reimbursement, for purposes of the Multi Recreation Space Project as approved in Articles 10 and 11 at the March 7, 2026 Annual Town Meeting.

**Note:** This article was requested by the grant authority in order to comply with the granting process in support of the town's approval of the Multi Recreation Space. It was not anticipated that the town would be responsible for repayment of such loans, except from grant funds and donations.

- **Motion:** So moved by Sean Minear.
- **Second:** Confirmed.
- **Discussion:** None.
- **Vote:** 35 in favor, 0 opposed. Article passed unanimously.

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## 11. CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

- Funding for Article Two is designated as non-lapsing and restricted to the town-wide property reevaluation reserve.
- Purchases authorized under Article Four shall not exceed a total of \$29,085.34.
- Borrowing authorized under Article Six is contingent upon repayment through federal grant reimbursement and/or donations; general town liability is not anticipated.

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## 12. ACTION ITEMS / FOLLOW-UP

1. **Special Town Meeting to be scheduled** to present amended article language correcting the \$10,000 expenditure authorization article passed at the 2026 Annual Town Meeting, in accordance with revised language developed in consultation with the Maine Municipal Association (MMA). The corrected article is intended to limit town approval requirements to expenditures from reserve funds, rather than all expenditures exceeding \$10,000.
2. **Select Board** to ensure that future annual town meeting articles related to expenditure thresholds and reserve fund usage are clearly and accurately drafted, and that MMA guidance is incorporated prior to submission.
3. **Town Clerk / Treasurer** to proceed with authorized payments listed under Article Five in accordance with the vote.
4. **Public Works Department** to proceed with equipment purchases authorized under Article Four within the approved budget limits.

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### 13. NEXT MEETING

A subsequent Special Town Meeting is anticipated to address the amendment to the \$10,000 expenditure authorization article. Date, time, and location: **To be confirmed.**

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### 14. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Sean Minear and seconded. All those in favor voted aye. The Special Town Meeting was adjourned.

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*Minutes recorded by:* \_\_\_\_\_ Otter.ai \_\_\_\_\_