

## MINUTES OF SPECIAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING HELD MAY 16, 2025

The duly warned and notified special town budget meeting was held Friday, May 16, 2025 at the Cornwall Consolidated School Gathering Room at 7:30 p.m. Approximately 23 townspeople were present.

Gordon Ridgway, First Selectman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Scott Cady was elected moderator. Vera Dinneen, Town Clerk, read the call of the meeting.

Mr. Ridgway made a motion to approve the proposed budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, as recommended by the Board of Finance. The motion was seconded by Joe Pryor. The budget total is \$8,417,014. Mr. Ridgway stated that garbage, highway and insurance are all factors in the 3.51 % increase in the Board of Selectmen budget.

The total increase in the education budget is 5.22% due to electric rates, insurance, teachers' raises (which are contractual), increase in the school food program and a large Kindergarten class next year.

When asked if cuts by the government will affect the budget, Mr. Ridgway said that less than 10% of the budget comes from federal and state grants. If the federal government cuts state funds for Medicaid and food supplies, it may affect the towns.

The vote was one against and twenty-two for. The motion carried.

First Selectman Ridgway made the following motion "To appropriate \$10,000 from the Gates Bequest fund to be used in commemoration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance". Rocco Botto seconded the motion. Mr. Ridgway said that a committee has been formed to plan several events. The Gates Bequest can be used for special town events. The motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman Ridgway made a motion to adjourn. Annie Kosciusko seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously for. The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Vera L. Dinneen  
Town Clerk