

APPROVED MINUTES AT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING 4/12/2010

***BRISTOL BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 7, 2010***

PRESENT:

Andrew Hemingway-Chairman, Barbara Greenwood, Dave Carr, Dorcas Gordon, Wendy Costigan, Dan Arseneau, Jon Thouin, Shaun Lagueux, Jeff Shackett, Ron Preble, Paul Simard

ABSENT:

Dan Bouchard, Ashley Dolloff

OTHERS PRESENT:

Paul Weston, Town Manager; Christina McClay, Assessing Assistant

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Hemingway called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

The meeting began with a review of the minutes from January 25, 2010; Mr. Lagueux made a motion to accept the minutes as amended and was seconded by Ms. Greenwood followed by a unanimous vote in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

DISSCUSSION OF WARRANT ARTICLES:

Warrant Article 9: "Sewer to Lake"

Chairman Hemingway asked for a motion then discussion would follow regarding this article. Mr. Simard made a motion to recommend the warrant article as worded. Mr. Preble seconded the motion.

Mr. Thouin asked if the intent of this article was to have the town's people to vote in favor or tabling the final vote until a special meeting could take place. Town Manager Weston explained he was alerted to the fact that the time to request a special town meeting had expired. He was also advised to put the article on the Town Warrant and vote to have a special meeting the first Saturday of May. Postponing the final vote will allow time for promoting the project and allow time to hear if the Town has been awarded grant money to use on this project.

Mr. Shackett emphasized that only this article would be discussed at the May meeting. It is not the intent to reopen the budget or any other articles. This article 9 does not have any impact on the town budget; only the users would be affected. If the anticipated

funding is not received then the project should not continue.

Town Manager Weston stated that USDA has money to give towards this type of town project and now is the time to pursue receiving funding for this bond item.

Mr. Thouin asked for an explanation of tabling an item and could this article come to a vote at the Town Meeting. Town Manager Weston replied that if a motion to table fails then it could go before the Town for a vote. He added that it would have to be a secret ballot vote.

Mr. Thouin stated after a brief discussion that he is in favor of the project but now with the financing of it. He feels the entire town should be charged not just the users of the sewer line.

Chairman Hemingway called for a vote. The motion was to recommend the article as written. The motion passed with 8 in favor, 2 opposed and 1 abstention.

Warrant Article 9: Library

Chairman Hemingway began discussion on this article by reading the now approved minutes from 1/25/10, which state that:

“the motion is NOT to support the library addition. This motion passed with 6 in favor, 5 opposed, and 1 abstention.”

Mr. Thouin questioned the legality of the Budget Committee’s vote on this article. He requested permission to ask the town counsel for advisement. Mr. Thouin feels that “Robert’s Rules” were not followed specifically questioning the Chairman’s vote on this article. Mr. Simard commented that the Chairman can vote to break a tie, which this was. He also stated that seeking Town Counsel is a waste of money because the Budget Committee has not followed the “Robert’s Rules” or any other specific guidelines so why should those rules be applied now. Ms. Dorcas agreed by stating she did not think it was the will of the committee for the Town Counsel to be sought out on this matter. Mr. Shackett said that there is a procedure to follow and he did not want Mr. Thouin making the call. It should be the Town Manager making the call. Chairman Hemingway stated that we hold elected positions and ought to have access to Town Counsel if needed. Mr. Shackett clarified that Mr. Thouin could make the call but there is a process that must be followed to control legal fees.

SIGNING OF MS7

Town Manager Weston will notify each committee member when the MS7 is ready. Each committee member will have to go into the Town Office and sign this document.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm upon a motion by Mr. Simard and seconded by Mr. Lagueux.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Hemingway
Recording Secretary