

APPROVED

Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2013

Present:

Kerrin Rounds, Chair; Ron Preble, Dave Carr, William Cote, Paul Manganiello, Ashley Dolloff, Tom Keegan, Barbara Greenwood, Ernie Richards, Carol Huber, and Betsy Schneider.

Absent: Mark Chevalier, Kevin MacCaffrie

Others Present:

Michael Capone- Town Administrator

Call to Order:

Committee Chair, Kerrin Rounds called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Review of Minutes:

Kerrin Rounds asked the members to review the minutes from August 12, 2013. Barbara Greenwood made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Paul Manganiello. All were in favor.

Correspondence:

Old Business:

New Business:

Dave Carr opened the discussion regarding committee goals for the upcoming budget cycle. The goals could be to keep the budget the same as last year to include reductions to offset expense increases; the budget can go up; or the budget could be increased or decreased by a certain percent of dollar amount set by the committee.

- Carol Huber stated that she wants to decrease the budget.
- Paul Manganiello feels that there should be no more status quo.
- Barbara Greenwood commented that the town cannot run without any money and that employees need to be paid.
- Kerrin Rounds would like to see the committee ask a lot of questions when the department heads are in presenting their budgets.
- Dave Carr wants a supplemental description for items in department budgets.
- William Cote would like to know what the capital expenditures are for next year and what the amount in warrant articles is.
- Kerrin Rounds stated that the level of service needs to be part of the discussion; if expenses are reduced do the services get reduced.
- Paul Manganiello wanted the employee contribution for health care looked at.
- Tom Keegan commented that there is a good rate of payment on property taxes in the town and there are not a lot of delinquencies.
- Ernie Richards stated that revenues need to be looked at, are property tax values going to decrease.

- Dave Carr commented that the police department is growing every year with sizeable budget increases every year.
- Kerrin Rounds would like to see a projection of true expenses regarding the library, what are the solar panel savings and what are the trustees' plans for sustaining the new library addition.
- Paul Manganiello stated that he wants to see the purchase of a police cruiser as a warrant article and not part of the operating budget. Mr. Manganiello asked if the cruiser can be specified as marked or unmarked. Mr. Capone will check on this and report back to the committee.
- Kerrin Rounds would like to see the Select Board consider the employee wage increases to be a dollar amount and not a percent, as this would benefit lower earning employees.
- Paul Manganiello would like to see certain line items that are not used, Library demo and cell tower reimbursement, hidden in the budget spreadsheet.
- Kerrin Rounds requests that budget committee members submit questions for department heads that require a more in depth answer to the chair prior to their presentation night so they can prepare an answer. Department heads can be called back for questions during the deliberative sessions.

Budget Committee By-Laws:

- Kerrin Rounds read committee rules drafted a few years ago. She would like a subcommittee to be established for creating committee by-laws. This could be a springtime project.

Member Comments:

William Cote asked if the downtown project was finished. Michael Capone reported that there are just punch list items left.

Kerrin Rounds reminded the committee members about the budget workshop offered in September. A couple of members are attending.

Administrator's Report:

Adjournment:

Carol Huber made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ernie Richards, passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Costigan, Secretary