

## **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**June 15, 2021**

#### **Call to Order-Chairman Brian Warburton 7:00pm**

**Pledge of Allegiance** lead by Steven Henderson 7:01pm

#### **Introduction of Members**

Chairman Brian Warburton

Steven Henderson

Larry Quinn

Stephen LaBranche

Rich Sawyer

Ginny Bridle

Bob Ladd

Katharine Harake

#### Absent:

Joyce Skaperdas

#### **Agenda**

##### **Public Comment 7:02pm**

Regina Barnes, Selectman. Thanks Budget Committee. Gives thoughts on process and job of Budget Committee. Reminds public \$425k was authorized by Board of Selectmen for end of year purchases. Over \$1million under budget. There was plenty of money left when the budget committee made cuts. Budget Committee did a great job.

Runs through different stats over the years from the police department. The police department has a lot on their plate, and they always have to think of what the biggest safety concern is. It seems as though it cost less to operate when we had more part time staff.

**Announcements 7:07pm** June 2 Governor Sununu approved the appointment of Justin Cutting to be the new Director of Fire Training and Medical Services for State of New Hampshire. We congratulate Justin.

Nate Denio promoted to Captain and Jason Newman to Lieutenant.

Mikey Moran became a working foreman for public works.

**Selectmen's Update 7:08pm Rich Sawyer** They are going to start formulating their budgets for the selectmen. The fire study report will be July 12.

**School Board Update 7:09pm Ginny Bridle**

First Chairman congratulates SAU90 for such a successful year.

As we end the school year, we have to thank all staff, especially the custodians and Keith's crew. Parents who supported us, thank you.

A back-to-school plan is being developed. We are taking the advice from CDC and DHHS rulings. We are now moving to 3-foot distance in classrooms.

Jamie Hayward was hired for the Vice Principal spot at Centre School.

Auditors are coming in July to do their audits on finances.

A psychologist was also hired for Centre School.

A program to bring special needs kids back to school has been developed.

**Village District Update: Bob Ladd 7:12pm**

Last weekend the Shell Entertainment started.

The Sandcastle Competition starts tomorrow and Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> will be the judging of the contest.

No fireworks for the next couple weeks because of the plover birds which are a protected species.

No questions.

**Old Business 7:14pm**

Review of Town Manager's Responses to Special Revenue Funds

-Chairman forwarded Mr. Sullivan's responses

-Discussion around answers.

There's a difference between wants and needs. How big are we going to get before we say "we don't need to take 20% of funds from parking lot because we have enough money" etc.

Mr. LaBranche says the 20% was a warrant article voted on by the town so it's not negotiable unless a legislative body decides to change.

Discussion around possibly putting forth a warrant article to adjust that.

Monthly Reports

We haven't received the DPW Report. We used to receive a copy of the report once it was presented to the Selectman

**Motion to request the reports be forwarded made by Mr. Sawyer seconded by Mr. Henderson Roll Call Vote 8-0**

Mrs. Harake wants to clarify he is including the April financials. Chairman explains the difference between the reports.

**New Business: 7:22pm**

NHMA Response to Chairman Re: Information Requests

Mr. Warburton called Mr. Buckley after last meeting.

Discussion around NHMA discussion and guidelines.

Mr. LaBranche and Mr. Henderson discuss passed 91A issues that came up and his responsibilities as past Chairman.

Mr. Ladd says last meeting we did vote and anything under (1A statute has anything to do with what we are voting on for questions at this table.

Chairman Warburton says Chairman Bridle said he called the governor and there was no vote taken for that. Says the other chairmans for the other committees don't need to get permission to ask questions or calls anyone.

Mr. Sawyer says the other boards aren't under the same laws.

Discussion continues.

Task Force Presentation: Member Katharine Harake 7:37pm

Looking at ways we can take the data we have and look at it in an easier and better way. There are lots of companies out there that can help with budget building, or it can help with the budget review process.

Towns that are using them are winning awards for budget books.

Can reduce staff time and money.

Budget process would be protected.

Wants to recommend putting together a committee to research a range of options and put together a presentation for the committee and town manager.

Discussion round table.

Mrs. Harake wants to clarify this is not a insult of how the town currently does things, just a request to look at options.

Mr. Sawyer doesn't mind just taking a look at options but also shares concerns on creating sub committees to town committees.

Mrs. Bridle hates to say it but hates committees because we spend a lot of money and get nowhere. If we want to do this it's the chairman's job to appoint committee members per the budget law. Kristi, Mariah and the treasurer needs to be on the committee.

Mr. Ladd sees no wrong to allow her to sit down for ideas.

Mr. Henderson thinks information is overwhelming and people need to do research. I think it needs to be above the Budget Committee maybe to the Selectmen if it's going to be a process change.

Would anyone have an objection to the Board of Selectman taking this over?-Mr. Sawyer

Chairman commends Katharine for going out of the box. This should be a presentation done to the Board of Selectman. Kristi Pulliam has really developed a lot of mechanisms for budgeting.

Katharine can request an appointment with the Board of Selectman as a citizen.

**Minutes for May 18 8:00pm Roll Call Vote Yes 7 Abstain 1 No 0**

New Information Requests 8:02pm

Social Service agencies conversation.

**Motion made by Chairman to have Mr. Sawyer ask for those reports Roll Call Vote 8-0**

Mr. LaBranche asks about attending in person.

Mrs. Harake has questions about the April report.

Question about land rent of 194,000

Data processing charge-why is it over?

**Make a motion for the questions to be sent to town manager by Mr. Sawyer, Seconded by Mr. Henderson. Roll Call Vote Yes 8 No 0**

Mr. Quinn asks about what the town is doing with the extra money? Town manager still hasn't clarified.

Discussion.

Mr. Henderson wants to thank Mr. Walsh for his service as Town Manager.

**Next Meeting September 21, 2021**

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**Adjournment 8:23pm**

**Motion to adjourn made by Mr. LaBranche, Seconded by Mr. Quinn Roll Call Vote Yes 8 No 0**