

Budget Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2015

The Vice-Chair of the Budget Committee opened the meeting at 6:35 pm.

1, **Roll Call:** The Vice-Chair called the roll of the seating members Bob Carrier, Larry Brown, Devon Pageau, John Katwick, Ann Walsh (Chairman of the School District Rep.), Stan Nadeau (Water District Commissioner Rep.) Mike Beaulieu (Selectman Rep.) a quorum was present. Maureen Steer and Steve Wendt (Write-ins) were not present.

2, **Welcome new members:** John Katwick (write in) and Larry Brown who was re-elected for a three year term. They were sworn in earlier in the day.

Vice-Chairman Carrier went the Town Clerk office to get the write-in list.

Maureen Steer, John Katwick, and Steve Wendt had the most write –in votes for the budget committee. There was a question on how many slots were open and what terms did the two top write-in choose. Since these were write-ins for the 2 yr and 3 yr position could they choose which term they would like to serve.

There was further discussion on who would accept the 2 yr term M. Steer or S. Wendt or maybe neither one will accept the position and the possibility of one of them could be designated as an appointee.

S. Nadeau: The next person on the list that got the most votes is Steve Wendt with 26 votes, he is interested. Stan will get Steve's number and forward it to the V.Chair. Steve could not be at the meeting. The V.Chair will look into this.

3, Review of By-Laws and Municipal Budget Law (N.H. RSA Chapter 32)

The new members received a copy of the By-Laws and the MBL. The Committee felt there was no need to review there was no rules that were challenged, so there was no need to make changes.

A. Walsh: The recording clerk is not on the agenda what are we going to do about hiring a secretary?

M. Beaulieu: We now have a budget and we have money for the recording secretary.

Devon Pageau arrived late due to emergencies.

4, Review and Approval of the Draft Minutes of March 3, 2015

V. Chair ask if everyone had a chance to review the minutes and if there's no errors or omissions would like a motion to approve Larry Brown made the motion to accept the minutes as read Ann Walsh second it. The V. Chair all those in favor say I all those oppose say I motion passed (5-0-2)

5, Election of Chair and Vice-Chair:

The committee wanted to postpone the election of Officers because of the status of the 2 write –in candidates whether one or the other or neither of them accepted the open position. Devon Pageau said Maureen Steer accepted the position and was sworn in earlier in the day but she could not attend the meeting. There's one more person needed to have a full board.

A. Walsh: We can't postpone the elections were coming into April.

L. Brown: I move Bob Carrier for Chair S. Nadeau second. Bob Carrier accepted. There were no other nominations. The vote was unanimous.

D. Pageau nominated Larry Brown for Vice-Chair second By A. Walsh. Larry Brown accepted. There were no other nominations. The vote was unanimous.

6, **School Report:** The V.Chair handed out the Revenue, Grant and Expenditure School reports.

They will be reviewed at the next meeting.

L.Brown: How the School District doing for its speech pathologist services.

A.Walsh: Were paying big time.

The fire last night at the school there wasn't any significant damage it just a matter of cleaning up.

The classroom will be closed for a couple more days.

As far as the end of the year is coming along I think we're going to be in good shape at the end of this year, basically for two reasons One The health insurance were getting a significant amount of money back last November not the one we just finished the one before, we were told we we're getting \$100,000 back and we figured that into our budget for this year, we took the cost of the insurance and we subtracted that \$100,000 out. Last April after the budget had past, we got another letter from the insurance company saying we we're getting \$200,000,

and so July, August and half of September we didn't have to pay health insurance premiums.

I think we're going to have \$100,000 and then we didn't fill three para positions this year that we had budgeted insurance for so we should have approximately \$150,000 left just in health insurance line.

The second area is Improvement of Instruction we have \$43,000 left I don't think we'll be spending that has to do with the teacher's contract, teachers are allowed to take so many classes, we have to budget for them in case they take them, but this year the teacher's haven't used much of that money, so we'll have that money left over.

A. Walsh: Wakefield did vote not go along with the committee's recommendation, so they are forming a withdrawal plan this year to break away from SAU #64 . What it means for us is they'll put their plan together this year and they have to get it to the state by October and the State would have to approve it and then it goes back on the ballot next March and if the Town of Wakefield approves that then as of July 1st of next summer they will not be a part of SAU # 64. We will be on our own so we will have to come up with 2 sets of plans at budget season for the following year.

Town Report: The V. Chair handed the Final Expenditure Report for 2014. The next meeting we will get the regular monthly expenditure report.

The budget has passed but we couldn't get a current report for this meeting. The Bookkeeper has resigned.

A. Walsh: What is the plan for the bookkeeper is?

M. Beaulieu: There are three applications outside and one within the dept.

The elections are over we had a very good turnout everything that we wanted to pass did.

The Board of Selectman kept the same appointments they had last year. I wanted to stay on the budget committee. It's a complicated process with the budgets and warrant articles and the frequency we meet 1 yr or even two years is not long enough too fully understand the process.

L. Brown: The Town wishes to advise the budget committee that position is being carried forward from MRI on a contract basis or the woman who is working independently or has she left as well.

M. Beaulieu: No she's putting in the same amount of time the help that Cindy was getting from the contracted services. Kathy is taking care of the payroll and other small roles that the bookkeeper does.

The contracted services come in and do all the checks, payments receivables account.

The V. Chair ask if the committee if they wants hard copies of Town and School Reports. The reason is that the reports are sent electronically and some members have their Iphone or tablet with them, not everybody may want a hard copy. Some want hard copies the School and Town will print a few copies.

7, Discuss Schedule: The committee decided to stay with the current schedule, the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm instead of 6:30pm. The Chair will put a calendar together.

A. Walsh: We have our business meeting the second Wednesday of the month. We review the financial reports and we'll send them to you on that Friday so you will have the weekend to look at them.

8, Members Comment: J. Katwick I've got examples I'd like to do with the approval of this board that would

mean spending more time in the school system during school hours as well spending more time with Town depts. With the approval of the BOS as well as the budget committee to vote for this learning curve. I would like to start with the school system and I would like to sit down with the Superintendent and the Principal of the High School and Elementary School and after that I would like to spend time with the SAU group does anybody have any problems with me doing this?

M. Beaulieu he would bring a lot of knowledge back, I don't have the time to do it and John and others on the board have time to do it. J. Katwick: My point is I look at these reports and it don't take long to go through it and you want to go detail to understand what does it mean?

The Chair ask if the committee have a problem with it.

S. Nadeau: I don't have a problem with it so long as it doesn't violate any Town policy.

A. Walsh: As a member of the public you are welcome to go into the schools any time you want to as long as you call and make an appointment and set up a meeting with the Principals and Superintendent as a new budget committee member I'm sure the Superintendent would be more than glad and give you an overview of everything and if you have any specific questions as for the School budget is concern it's very long and complicated and the best way you're going to learn is to go through the budget season.

L. Brown: The general rule of the Budget Committee is to assist voters prudent appropriation of public funds from the current year forward rather than the previous year and the emphasis is on the prudent appropriation of funds and the School District has had experience with the School Board Members of Wakefield if I'm speaking accurately going into the district on a daily basis and micro manage the decision and allocation of staff resources of the district.

A. Walsh: I think for him to go in and have a conversation with the Superintendent and get an overview of everything would be fine.

J. Katwick: I hope that I can show within a period of 12 months that I've done something good for the Town. In order to do that I need to talk to the right people to understand what this process is.

A. Walsh: My role here on the budget committee is to answer questions for the other budget committee members, we can't have someone going in there 4hrs. every single week taking up the Superintendents time.

S. Nadeau: When the budget season starts the Dept heads will come in and give their budget presentations with all the budgets.

L. Brown: What list of people from your contacts would be most useful to give that overview in the various dept.? Nathan Castle who works for MRI should be able to help you with the different categories.

A. Walsh: Anybody from the budget committee that would like to see the school district should go through the Superintendent.

L. Brown: Structurally we have had unnecessary problems with the interest in people in the past.

J. Katwick is not like that.

L. Brown: From the Committee siting now thanks to Bruce for his past work.

B. Carrier: Article 20 did not pass the budget committee job is to put together a budget that the Town can provide to the people of Milton. The budget committee does not have all the information to put a default budget together. I think the budget committee should sit down with the BOS and Town Administrator to go over the default budget and be able to ask questions.

L. Brown: On the default budget if you know every default budget list the table of contents for the By-Laws that every default budget has to have section 1 section 3 what happen to section 2. In section 2 you can go between \$5.00 and \$10.00 if you take \$5.00 you have actually reduced the budget below 10%, which is the most you can do at the deliberative session, so if people on the budget committee believe that the default budget has been artificially low or high balled that's where the animosity comes from. A clever person will be

3.17.15 BC

able to raise a default budget artificially or to drop it so much artificially so you're 10% rule might be changed.

You now have the call of the Chair for the operation and direction of the committee.

9, Public Comments: None

10, Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn second by L.Brown motion passed (7-0) at 7:35pm

Submitted by Bob Carrier

Chairman: _____