

**Town of Milton, New Hampshire
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 21, 2015**

Public Minutes

Chair Bob Carrier called the meeting to order at 6:02PM. Present were committee members Larry Brown, Devon Pageau, Maureen Steer, John Katwick, Mike Beaulieu (selectmen's representative), Ann Walsh (school board representative), and Stan Nadeau (water district representative). There were also two members of the public- Mr. McDougall and Andy Rawson.

Approval of March 17, 2015 Minutes

Chair Carrier asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes of March 17, 2015. There were a few grammatical and spelling corrections made along with the removal of the sentence that states Tony Mclellan agreed to do the budget committee minutes.

Devon Pageau moved, second by Larry Brown, to approve the minutes of March 17, 2015 with corrections. The vote was 7-0-1 with Maureen Steer abstaining.

Reorganization of Budget Committee/Terms of new members

Chair Carrier explained that he went to the town clerk to verify the terms of the people just elected to the budget committee. He confirmed that John Katwick was seated for a three year position, Maureen Steer for a two year position, and Larry Brown for a three year position.

Vacant Position

Chair Carrier said that the position vacated by Jennifer Crone should have been on the ballot but her resignation was never formally accepted by the budget committee. The committee discussed how to move forward to fill the position. There was a discussion on whether or not the person with next largest number of write-in votes should be offered the position. Stan Nadeau said that it was how a position was filled in recent years. Both Bob Carrier and Larry Brown said that it was up to the committee to appoint a person and that the person with the write-in votes was not automatically entitled to the position. It was decided to post the position out in the community. Any interested parties should submit a letter of interest to the Chair of the budget committee. The letters will be reviewed at the May meeting and the committee will appoint a new member.

Larry Brown moved, second by Ann Walsh, to table the filling of the vacant budget committee position until the May meeting. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Secretary Position

The committee then discussed filling the budget committee secretary position. The secretary of the selectmen declined the position. The position is a stipend position paying \$60 per meeting. The person who fills this position is not considered an employee of the Town of Milton but an outside contractor who receives a 1099 at the end of the year. Mr. Carrier suggested that the committee raise the stipend to \$75 per meeting. Mr. Carrier expressed concern about doing the minutes himself along with the responsibility of being the Chair. Devon Paguea said Mr. Carrier could not be expected to do both and he volunteered to do the minutes for the next meeting. It was decided that the Mike Beaulieu would talk to the town administrator about filling the position.

The committee discussed the need for alternate members. Mr. Carrier expressed concerns about committee attendance. Stan Nadeau said that with the new board seated we may not have the same problems with attendance. Larry Brown suggested the committee look at the RSA to see if there are rules regarding alternate budget committee members. No other action was taken.

Meeting Schedule

The committee reviewed the budget committee schedule for the next few months. It was decided to cancel the July meeting. The town and school district will have to decide who will be presenting their budgets first this year. Last year the school district presented first.

Review of School District Report

Ann Walsh reported that the balance of the general fund of the school district is \$374,907. This is a little lower than where we were last year at this time but the school district is anticipating some money left over at the end of the year mainly due to the health insurance lines.

Bob Carrier asked a question regarding the revenue report and food service. He questioned whether the amounts in parenthesis were negative or positive. On the revenue report they are positive meaning we received more than anticipated.

Larry Brown questioned whether or not there was an issue with the gymnasium at the elementary school. Ann replied that the issue with the gymnasium is basically the size. It is used as a multipurpose room serving as a cafeteria as well. It is too small for the current student population. A facility analysis is being done at the elementary school over the summer to start the planning process on what needs to be done at the elementary school, including the gymnasium.

Ann also reminded the budget committee that Wakefield was moving forward with the development of their withdrawal plan from SAU 64 which will most likely affect our budget next year.

The school district has also formed a subcommittee to look at support staff salaries and benefits over the summer to prepare for budget season next fall.

Bob Carrier acknowledged that he received the Capital Reserve Fund balances from the school district. He asked that the district send the reports in the same format used in previous years.

Review of Town Report

Bob Carrier provided an updated town report to the budget committee members. So far this year the town is showing that 21.49% of the operating budget has been used. Everything seems to be going well.

Larry Brown inquired if the police cruiser involved in the accident was back on the road. Mike replied that it was.

Bob Carrier asked about the town car. Mike replied that the town emblem was being put on the car.

Ann inquired about the snowplowing lines. Mike replied that the town came close to going over. We did go over on salt. This was all due to the number of storms. Devon said that we should be getting some of that money back from the state because of the declaration of an emergency.

Public Comments

During public comment Mr. McDougall encouraged the committee to hire a secretary. He feels that it would be too hard for Mr. Carrier to chair a meeting while taking the minutes.

Wages of Town Employees

Mr. Carrier presented the committee with a list of town employees and their salaries. He asked Mr. Katwick to speak about the issue. John said that there was a significant concern about the wages being paid for drivers with the CDL licenses. The wages are very low compared to other towns and the public works department is having a difficult time hiring drivers. This will definitely have to be addressed during the budget process next year.

Devon expressed a concern about the base salaries not being correct on the spreadsheet.

Member Comments

John Katwick asked if anyone had any objections to him creating a spreadsheet for the school district much like the one he created for the town showing the tax rate liability for the school district compared to the rate of inflation. There were no objections just a confirmation that this was being done by him personally and was not a budget committee document.

4.21.15 BC

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2015.

Adjournment

Devon Pageau moved, second by Larry Brown, to adjourn the meeting at 7:32PM. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Walsh
Secretary Pro tem

Minutes are a draft until approved.

Approved on:_____