

Town of Milton
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
January 31, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Laura Turgeon (Chair), Bob Carrier, Mike Beaulieu, Humphrey Williams, Peg Hurd, Kim Wischnewski, Stephanie Mills. **Excused:** Lisa Gautreau

Laura Turgeon, Chair, opened the session at 6:00 PM.

1.) Pledge of Allegiance: Laura Turgeon, Chair, led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.) Roll Call:

a. Ms. Turgeon, Chair, led the roll call of members to determine if a quorum was present. Laura Turgeon (Chair), Mike Beaulieu, Stephanie Mills, Kimberly Wischnewski, Bob Carrier, Peg Hurd, Humphrey Williams. A quorum was present.

3.) Mr. Williams motioned to approve the January 5, 2023, minutes with corrections. Ms. Hurd seconded the motion.

Laura Turgeon, Humphrey Williams, Mike Beaulieu, Bob Carrier, Peg Hurd voted Yes. Kim Wischnewski and Stephanie Mills abstained. Motion Carried – 5/0/2.

Mr. Williams motioned to approve the January 10, 2023, minutes with corrections. Ms. Hurd seconded the motion.

Laura Turgeon, Humphrey Williams, Mike Beaulieu, Stephanie Mills, Bob Carrier, Peg Hurd voted Yes. Kim Wischnewski abstained. Motion Carried – 6/0/1.

4.) BC business conduct and participation:

Mr. Williams addressed the angst concerning MS737 & MS27 signing requirements. Although these have always been signed prior to the Deliberative Session, this is not required by the state. According to the state, the forms are due to the DRA 20 days after the town votes. This year it would be April 3rd.

Since last week, the Town Administrator and Finance Director have submitted data to the DRA. There has been some confusion on the part of the DRA due to new individuals employed by DRA. There are issues still needing resolution. Warrants have been posted as required and no violations have occurred. The DRA must first confirm they are satisfied with all of the documents; only then can the forms be signed and then posted. By April 3rd all must be signed and submitted. Mr. Beaulieu thanked Mr. Williams for the clarifications.

Mr. Williams thanked Brittney for going above and beyond to get everything ready and Mackenzie for following up with the DRA.

5.) Town Expenditure Reports: Mr. Williams explained the current focus has been getting everything ready to submit to DRA; because of this, Brittney needed to postpone working on the expenditure reports. These should be completed over the next week. Ms. Turgeon thanked Peg and Mackenzie for their work and getting the school information so quickly.

Mr. Williams said there had been an issue regarding Government Buildings in the 2023 budget specifically around contract services and professional services. This only affected the Default Budget, not the Operating Budget. He believes they are forwarding a fiscally sound budget for 2023.

6.) School Expenditure Reports, Revenue & Grant Reports: Ms. Hurd provided an explanation on the current expenditure overages. An area of particular concern from the Budget Committee concerned the MES OP/Maintenance line-item which involved an overrunning toilet. They questioned why this situation took so long to fix. Ms. Hurd explained while it did take longer to fix, there have been many repairs to the buildings which happened over the past year with increased focus from the current Facilities Director.

Ms. Turgeon asked for an explanation of how the school lists its encumbrances since this is different from how the town handles encumbrances. Mr. Williams said it's based on looking at the current expenses and then projecting what will be used for the rest of the year. Ms. Turgeon said it would be helpful to know what the maintenance and repairs of the buildings are.

As of December 31, 2022, the school was at 39% expended at the 50% to-date mark. Based on that the projection is \$3.9M left in encumbrances which indicates they are on track to be under their budget at year-end. Ms. Hurd said Mr. Houghton, Superintendent, has instituted a 'budget freeze' for the rest of the year.

7.) Set 2023 Meeting Calendar:

The Budget Committee mapped out their 2023 meeting schedule.

Meeting dates: 2/28, 3/28, 4/25, 5/23, 8/22, 9/14 (joint mtg with BOS & Dept. Heads), 9/26, 10/10 (if needed), 10/24, 11/16 (joint mtg with BOS), 11/28 (presentation by School), 12/12 (if needed), 12/21; January, 2024 TBD. Note the Budget Committee will not meet during June and July.

8.) Other business that may come before the board:

a.) Mr. Williams explained the required changes by the DRA to the Warrant Articles including order of the articles. Another change involved the Lease/Purchase Ambulance Warrant Article. Originally written there was no tax impact for 2023 since the first payment would not occur for two years. The DRA said they would impose a tax which they have the right to do; this means the town needs to raise money in 2023. The tax impact was changed to \$.09/\$1,000; if passed \$45,000 would be raised in 2023; \$45,000 raised in 2024. With this, most of the ambulance should be paid for by the time the ambulance is ordered. Because of this change, it will require a 3/5 ballot vote (new wording).

Mr. Williams said there was a lot of back and forth discussion between the town and DRA.

Brittney and Chris worked many hours to get this all accomplished and deserve much credit and thanks. A voter's guide will be available prior to the Deliberative Session and will provide in-depth explanation.

9.) Public Comments or Questions on Budget Committee Meeting Topics: There was none.

10.) Next Meetings: February 28, 2023, February 11th, 9:00 AM – Deliberative Session

11.) Adjournment:

- a. Ms. Hurd motioned to adjourn at 7:25 PM; Seconded by Ms. Wischnewski. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Winslow-Weiss, Recording Secretary – Budget Committee