

**Town of Milton
Regular Budget Committee Meeting
Milton Town Hall
Tuesday April 18, 2017 6:00 P.M.**

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Brown called the public meeting to order at 6:08 pm and welcomed everyone.

Roll Call: Tom McDougall, Bob Carrier, Chairman Larry Brown, Stan Nadeau (Water District Commissioner), Mike Beaulieu (Selectmen Representative), Denis Wing, Peg Hurd (School Board Representative), Shawn Perreault and Brenda Pabon (Recording Clerk).

Quorum was present

Public in Attendance:

Bob Bridges

Call to order – Introduction of members, election of officers.

- **Nomination for Chair:**

B. Carrier nominated L. Brown for Chair, seconded by M. Beaulieu

Discussion:

L. Brown stated that for his own preference is for discussion on topics of the town and school budgets by presentation of how the budgets are going and the outliers those things either positive or negative which have had a substantial impact on the present budget month's expenses or the impact for the entire year.

Roll Call:

M. Beaulieu (Yes), T. McDougall (Yes), B. Carrier (Yes), P. Hurd (Yes), S. Nadeau (Yes), S. Perreault (Yes), L. Brown (Yes), motion carried 7-0

- **Nomination for Vice Chair:**

S. Nadeau nominated B. Carrier for Vice Chair, seconded by M. Beaulieu

Discussion:

B. Carrier stated that he would get all documents needed for their work. He would also like to be more involved with the scheduling so that they don't go through what they did this past year. L. Brown stated that the reason L. Brown and B. Carrier are on the same page is that B. Carrier makes sure that all pages are printed out so that L. Brown can read it. B. Carrier is the absolute spark plug and bases of the operations of the committee and L. Brown wanted that to be on clear record.

Roll Call:

M. Beaulieu (Yes), T. McDougall (Yes), B. Carrier (Yes), P. Hurd (Yes), S. Nadeau (Yes), S. Perreault (Yes), D. Wing (Yes), L. Brown (Yes), motion carried 8-0

M. Beaulieu asked as it stands right now is there an open position. L. Brown stated that there are provisions for a secretary but seems to not be a necessary position for the way the committee operates.

Old Business – Minutes

- **Motion:**

M. Beaulieu motioned to accept the minutes with necessary corrections or additions as needed, T. McDougall seconded.

Discussion:

T. McDougall stated that on the last page the word “Steer” needs to be removed from the motion to adjourn section.

Roll Call:

M. Beaulieu (Yes), T. McDougall (Yes), B. Carrier (Yes), P. Hurd (Abstained), S. Nadeau (Yes), S. Perreault (Abstained), D. Wing (Yes), L. Brown (Yes), motion carried 6-2.

New Business – readoption of bylaws, posting of committee vacancy (s) – a temporary position (s) which will expire on March of 2018

- **Motion:**

S. Nadeau motioned to accept the previous By-Laws as written, T. McDougall seconded.

Roll call:

M. Beaulieu (Yes), T. McDougall (Yes), B. Carrier (Yes), P. Hurd (Yes), S. Nadeau (Yes), S. Perreault (Yes), D. Wing (Yes), L. Brown (Yes), motion carried 8-0.

- **Motion:**

S. Nadeau motioned to have the open position on the Budget Committee posted, P. Hurd seconded.

Roll Call:

M. Beaulieu (Yes), T. McDougall (Yes), B. Carrier (Yes), P. Hurd (Yes), S. Nadeau (Yes), S. Perreault (Yes), D. Wing (Yes), L. Brown (Yes), motion carried 8-0.

School District Rep. – Budget status and issues of note.

- P. Hurd stated that in every single category as far as expenses the school is doing well, however the Special Education is \$376,000 in the hole, they will be receiving \$115,000 of that from the IDEA grant. The reason for this is because 4 kids came into the district and they had to outplace them because they could not meet their IEP needs. P. Hurd stated that there is a budget freeze because of this. P. Hurd stated that they still have \$3,000,000 in outstanding grants or revenue mostly grants the general fund is \$3,300,000 left to come in, Food Service they have \$98,000 ready to come in, Federal grants \$420,000 still waiting to come in. If they all come in they should end the year just fine. S. Perreault stated to P. Hurd you mentioned that if these monies come in, P. Hurd stated that sometimes what happens is they don't come in by the of the year so they just keep the books open till they do come in.
- L. Brown stated that if you take \$115,000 off of \$376,000 you end up with \$261,000 that is a Special Ed cost that has to be found either in the budget or come back as a special request to the voters. P. Hurd stated that they do have a fund balance. S. Nadeau asked L. Brown if the

school was eligible to request 10% to the budget committee for unanticipated expenses for Special Ed. S. Nadeau believes that the school can request 10% of their total budget from the budget committee if they qualify, he thinks they should look check on that. B. Carrier referenced from Title III Towns, Cities, Village Districts, and Unincorporated Places Chapter 32 Municipal Budget Law Section 32:11 Emergency Expenditures and Over expenditures. And 32:11-a Actual Expenditures for Special Education Programs and Services. P. Hurd will report back to the school board about 32:11 and how that can help them if needed.

T. McDougall asked with the \$4 additional students this year for Special Ed, will they be facing the same issue in the 2017-2018 School year if these 4 students are still in the district or is there enough in the budget to cover them in the next school year. P. Hurd stated they don't think they will have enough because this was not planed when they went through the budget process.

Town Rep. – Budget status and issues of note.

- M. Beaulieu stated that the budget is a healthy one still to this date as you can see they are consuming coming to the end of the first quarter is 23%+
- S. Nadeau's question to the school and the town is, where Milton moved there election day against the wishes of the State of NH and now the State of NH are saying that they are not going to put another get together for the people to vote whether or not to make it good and the State of NH are not saying whether or not they're going to make everything good, the State is saying that the warrant articles may not even be good, so should the town be spending any money out of warrant articles until they get that resolved. M. Beaulieu stated that it is the moderators call. P. Hurd stated they are not buying it. S. Nadeau stated that they are saying if anyone challenges this and brings it to court that they may win because the way they see it, it is not the moderators call, they see it that there is no gray area saying that they can move anything it has to be the done on that day, from what the state has been saying and the state is also saying that if that is the case then all warrant articles are null n void. M. Beaulieu stated that until it goes to court they will not know. M. Beaulieu stated that if it has not gone to court then the warrant stands.
- B. Carrier asked if the town has hired a Bookkeeper yet. M. Beaulieu stated as of last night they have decided to move forward. B. Carrier stated that will change the amount on the full-time line for Town Administrator salary line because that position was full time and now it is part time with no benefits.
- S. Nadeau stated that when they did the budget for the town and the people voted in under the sewer, if he did his math correctly, there was roughly a 2% increase for contracted services, but at a Board of Selectmen meeting they gave a 4% increase, why the discrepancy. M. Beaulieu stated that he was out voted. He thought it fair where they had a default budget the year before and they gave no one an increase including contract services so every year it would be fair at a 1.7% increase. S. Nadeau stated that he is not trying to argue what an individual person should be paid he is saying why wasn't that 4% brought to the Budget Committee originally for the budget rather than 2%. L. Brown stated that the decision came later than the budget in which it was presented.
- L. Brown stated that issues of note the fact that the town is down 2 police officers, the fact that there is a resignation in the town clerk's office, and the fact that they have hired a Bookkeeper which has to be done in open session given the name of the person which has not been done

yet to the committee, those are issues of note, would M. Beaulieu like to give the committee a hint as to who that person might be. M. Beaulieu stated that they are going to be doing a background check so he really can't comment now.

Other business – scope and focus of committee work under chapter 32: Municipal Budget Law, pace of work and planned summer meetings.

- Bob Bridges stated that his concern was, back in March they had a flawed article, it was article #7. Article #7 pertained to pay scale for the department of public works. Along with article #7 the town also put out information sheet out about article #7. This article went to the Department of Revenue and to the town attorney for review both sent back the article and said it was fine. However, the flaw in it, if you look at article #7,

Article reads:

"To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fourteen thousand one hundred fifty-nine dollars (\$14,159.00) to fund a proposed step plan/pay plan for the employees in the Highway, Solid Waste Department and Buildings Department. (Majority vote required)."

It states that this step plan is for Employees of the highway department, but if you look at the town budget and the pay scale that was reviewed by the budget committee the 2% increase included the director of public works. The director of public works is an elected position therefore article #7 is flawed and that it was sent to the town attorney and the DRA indicating nothing that the elected officials would get a pay raise. An elected official in the town of Milton works for the people, it is not up to the board of Selectmen or the Budget Committee to hand out pay raises for elected officials. If the Elected official wants a pay raise they have to put a separate warrant article out. B. Bridges is not saying that the Director of Public Works is not worth the increase that is being given, he thinks he is and probably worth more, however the town needs to do it properly and under law. S. Nadeau stated wouldn't that concern other elected positions like the town clerk. B. Bridges talked about an issue that arose about a pay increase when he was Selectmen and how it was not handled improperly. S. Nadeau asked if this is true what can the Budget Committee do and where their authority goes with this. B. Bridges stated that he believes that the Budget Committee should challenge this article. S. Nadeau stated that if this article is challenged and it became null and void that means no one will get a raise under that warrant article. B. Bridges stated that legal counsel and the town's people didn't know that this was an elected position and therefore approved the article. D. Wing stated that they should do something about it as well as that is 30% of the overall money that was appropriated. He feels it is disingenuous to allow a wrong to go on when they have the ability to make it right. M. Beaulieu stated that if it can be challenged, and if yes, would it take a special election because the people voted it in and he knows that it is a typo because it was not explained to the people that elected officials were involved in this. T. McDougall stated that like S. Nadeau where is there authority on this matter. He feels that more discussion on this would have been nice when it was brought to the board, however it was missed and now how do they go about fixing it. S. Nadeau stated how about he makes a motion to request the Board of Selectmen to research this with the proper authorities and then let us know what the results are. S. Perreault stated that S. Nadeau mentioned earlier that if someone in the State wanted to challenge that the election was valid and the warrant articles were valid and that ends up getting nullified then

they would have the opportunity to correct this. More discussion on this was presented with possible resolutions.

Motion:

S. Nadeau made a motion; The Budget Committee requests the Board of Selectmen to explore legal and policy questions on payment of warrant seven funds to elected positions, P. Hurd seconded.

Roll Call:

M. Beaulieu (Yes), T. McDougall (Yes), B. Carrier (Yes), P. Hurd (Yes), S. Nadeau (Yes), S. Perreault (Yes), D. Wing (Yes), L. Brown (Yes), motion carried 8-0.

B. Bridges also stated that he had an issue with the town budget, the \$2,000 line item for Treasurer Mileage. He stated that they have a town vehicle. L. Brown stated that he had done the math and aside from the math, to insert one's self in an issue that may become covered by ADA, secondly if you compute total mileage and the number of banks and mileage to them which was provided by the Treasurer and you subtract a minimum nut rate of \$.15 a mile for the operation of the town vehicle from the federal rate you end up with a difference of about \$400 on costs.

- S. Perreault stated that he is having a hard time making heads or tails of the documents that they have and wanted to know why they are not given excel documents or open source excel like files so that they can look at the data and put in their figures to try and figure out what is going on instead of scrolling throw 21 pages of PDF pages, is there a reason they are not getting them in that format. S. Nadeau stated that it was the software the town has; T. McDougall stated that the software can export to a csv file. S. Perreault stated that he would like to receive the files in the csv format.
- D. Wing stated that back in September he learned the Municipal Association puts out a 7 hour conference and he expressed to B. Carrier an interest in attending this if he was reelected, he was so he is now interested in attending so if and when it becomes available in 2017 he would like to attend. M. Beaulieu asked if there where funds in the budget for this, B. Carrier stated yes there was, B. Carrier stated that there is one in Bartlett and one in Nashua he will get D. Wing the dates.
- D. Wing talked about the scheduling issues, speaking for himself and himself only, he would appreciate any pertinent documents 3 days in advance of the meeting when it comes time to vote on a budget issue, if he does not receive them for whatever issue, he can promise he does not want to be put into a position he was put into this past year, so if he does not have time to review then come time to vote he will vote no. S. Perreault stated that he agrees with D. Wing on this, he feels that there is no way anyone should be voting on something that they do not completely understand or comprehend.
- T. McDougall stated that in both the School and Town Budget there is a large amount of Contracted services. He asked if there is any way that they can request to see the bids where they have gone out to at least a 1/3 of these contracted services to have them rebid.

Next Meeting:

May 16, 2017 at Milton Town Hall at 6:00pm

Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn made by M. Beaulieu seconded by T. McDougall at 7:50 pm. All in favor.
Motion carries. 8-0

Respectfully Submitted by:

Brenda Pabon – Recording Clerk

Date Approved: 5/16/2017 BLP