

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order at 6:30pm in the Town Hall.

Present: Almann, Carrier, Ebbighausen, Hartnett, Klein, Major, Schill, Shaw, Smith, Zavorotny.

Excused:

Absent:

This was joint discussion with the Selectmen and School Board to discuss the upcoming budget cycle. Town Administrator Collins and Assistant Business Manager O'Connor also attended.

Mr. Hartnett outlined his concerns that he was uncomfortable with this committee making changes at the last minute without active participation by department heads, etc.

Ms. Schill expressed concern that expenses are increasing and at the very least, we should be working toward a flat request.

Mr. Zavorotny noted that another important piece of information is what state aid will be and what changes might be made to the Grand List.

Mr. Ebbighausen went over the process the Selectmen typically use which requires several iterations before a final number is established. School Board Chair Major noted that this is similar to the School District process.

One important factor is the time involved and being able to complete the process earlier is seen as a positive step. Along with that, there seems to be support for joint meetings with the Budget Committee and the other boards after the initial "pie in the sky" requests are cleaned up. Doing this could help communication and reduce the number of meetings required as separate groups. As Mr. Ebbighausen noted earlier, this is the process used with Town budgets for some time and has worked well.

Mr. Smith also commented that the process will be a little more complicated this year for the transition of the Town to a July to June fiscal calendar. Ms. Collins noted that we did have a dry run this year as the department heads had prepared for a change this year and we held off for another year.

Mr. Ebbighausen felt that another improvement might be to move earlier on warrant articles. Ms. Collins indicated that it might be beneficial to have the CIP committee meet in June to begin laying the groundwork for that. She will plan to schedule accordingly.

It was decided to have another joint discussion July 21, 2010 at 6:30 in the Town Hall. Potentially a subcommittee will be established to finalize a process based on discussions at these two meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Peter W. Zavorotny
Recording Secretary