

Present: Dorianne Almann, Bruce Bellville, Paul Bornkessel, Michael Carrier (arrived 6:45pm), Lewis Major, James MacDonell, School Board Rep Tina McCosker, Selectmen's Rep Bill Nebelski, and Peter Zavorotny. Excused: Morris Klein. Absent: Joe Conroy.

Mr. Zavorotny called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. He said that with the start of a new year following the election, the first order of business is to elect the committee's Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Mr. Major made a motion to nominate Mr. MacDonell as Vice Chair. He was seconded by Mr. Nebelski. Hearing no objections, Mr. Zavorotny called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bellville made a motion to nominate Mr. Zavorotny as Chair. He was seconded by Mr. Nebelski. Hearing no objections, Mr. Zavorotny called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bellville made a motion to nominate Ms. Almann as Secretary. He was seconded by Mr. Nebelski. Hearing no objections, Mr. Zavorotny called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

With personnel for the upcoming year determined, Mr. Zavorotny told the committee there was business held over from the last fiscal year in the form of minutes needing to be approved: 646, 647, and 648. Mr. Major made a motion to approve all three sets of minutes and was seconded by Mr. MacDonell. The motion passed with seven aye's. Messrs. Bornkessel and Nebelski abstained.

Mr. Zavorotny handed out last quarter general fund revenue and expense summaries for the school and actual and budgeted expenses and encumbrances for the town. He noted there is one more quarter left in the year and asked the committee to first look at the school's numbers.

Mr. Zavorotny noted that "lots of salary lines seemed high." What accounted for the overspending? Was it bad planning?

Ms. McCosker replied that the salary for the para educator for the elementary school was high; the school "didn't know how many kids" were expected. Mr. Zavorotny said that the SAU salary was high due to Dr. David Crisafulli's separation payment.

Mr. MacDonell asked about the search for a new superintendent. Ms. McCosker told the committee that the school paid for the first round but was not satisfied with the results. The second round is free. The budget for the search was \$5,000, but \$10,000 was paid. School personnel are discussing not paying the final amount as they are "very unhappy".

Mr. Major asked about the accreditation report. Ms. McCosker replied that school personnel just got the NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) report and it's available to those interested. Ms. McCosker will ask the Business Administrator, Thomas O'Connor, for a digital copy for distribution to committee members.

Ms. McCosker told the committee that the income side of the school budget "looks pretty good."

Mr. Zavorotny said that based on his calculations, if the state reduces aid for towns as proposed in the next biennium budgeting process that would "put us down \$1,000,000" and mean \$1 or \$2 more on tax bills.

Mr. MacDonell asked about yearbooks and if a "big influx of cash was expected?" There will be yearbooks and an influx of cash is expected according to Ms. McCosker.

With no more discussion on the school budget, Mr. Zavorotny said, "Let's talk about the town."

Removing the police station and abatements, he feels the town is in "good shape at this point."

Mr. Bellville asked about the audit. Mr. Nebelski told the committee the auditor is looking into the town clerk. Mr. Zavorotny said let's get some information on the auditor.

Ms. McCosker asked about building maintenance (page 10); \$4,000 was budgeted and \$8,027 was spent. Mr. Nebelski noted General Government Buildings Repairs & Maintenance where \$1,000 was budgeted with \$238 spent.

Mr. Zavorotny mentioned Highways and Streets Resealing/Resurfacing had \$100,000 budgeted and \$16,097 was spent; he said, "Frank will likely have plans" for the remainder. Mr. MacDonell said lines will probably be painted on roads; Mr. Bellville said the department bought a line painting machine.

Mr. Zavorotny drew the committee's attention to the closing of the old landfill (page 11) for \$18,200. Wells need to be monitored; Mr. Bellville said there are federal requirements that need to be met.

Health insurance and state mandates for retirement funds were briefly discussed.

Mr. Zavorotny noted the pool and summer program seemed to be squared away. Mr. Bellville spoke up, wanting to know what board is in charge of summer program, who supervises events, what does the Event Coordinator do, what is the job description? Ann Diorio was mentioned; she is on the Parks & Rec Committee. Mr. Zavorotny said the job description has been requested several times, but that the committee had yet to see it. Mr. Nebelski pointed out that salaries for summer program was budgeted at \$32,437 (page 14)--with \$50,003 being spent, Mr. MacDonell said. Mr. Zavorotny said that perhaps the committee might "want to talk about the whole program." Mr. Bellville said he thought the Event Coordinator did film night, the chili cook-off, and other events--"where is this leading us?" Mr. Major wondered if the committee should ask TA Jill Collins to attend the next meeting to discuss the program. Mr. Zavorotny said he would ask her to attend.

The next department discussed was Water Distribution & Treatment and Wastewater Treatment; Mr. Zavorotny said budgets to-date of both looked "pretty good." Mr. MacDonell asked about water sampling (\$1,500 budgeted; \$3,314 spent). Mr. Nebelski said that any time extensive work is done, more sampling needs to be done.

Mr. MacDonell brought up the town car. User fees pay for it. It's used to read meters. Mr. Nebelski said he doesn't know how many town cars there are; Mr. Zavorotny said there is only one with a town insignia on the door. Mr. MacDonell said he thought there were three with one working. Mr. Zavorotny said there are two driver education cars. Mr. Major said the school probably saves money by taking the smaller vehicle when there's no need to take the larger van. Mr. MacDonell wondered how transport requirements overlap with driver ed.

Mr. Zavorotny told the committee he had talked to Mr. O'Connor about the school. Bids will be sought for the roofing job; the \$150,000 should be sufficient. The school's pickup truck is in rough shape; "the floorboards are going."

Mr. MacDonell mentioned the soccer field. Mr. Bellville said the shack at the school "should've been torn down." Now putting a scoreboard on it is being considered. He pointed out that the shed is in rough shape and will require work if a new scoreboard is put on its roof. Mr. Major said the bathrooms in the shed were closed down. Mr. Bellville went on to say that school personnel agreed it wasn't smart to spend money on the shed and instead money should be spent on a garage. A garage was built and now it's too small so the shack is being considered.

Mr. Zavorotny told the committee he's been thinking about finding a way for the committee to work more closely with the selectmen and a thought he had was to essentially have two meetings going on at the same time. The selectmen would decide on something and the budget committee, being right there, could discuss the issue. Mr. Bellville liked the idea, saying a joint meeting means the budget committee could take action right there. Mr. Zavorotny said such an arrangement would give the budget committee insight into the activity that goes into decisions being made. The general feeling among the committee was that the idea was worth pursuing.

Mr. Bellville said he would like to visit town properties, mentioning the town yard, the water department, and the fire department.

Mr. Zavorotny asked the committee to consider the next meeting. Normally, the committee doesn't meet at this point until the summer. The committee agreed its next meeting is to be August 19, 2015 at 6:30pm. TA Collins will be asked to the meeting.

With nothing further to discuss, Mr. Zavorotny asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. MacDonell made the motion, was seconded by Mr. Carrier, and the meeting ended at 7:18pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorianne Almann
Secretary