

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

Mr. Zavorotny called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

He said the committee needed to approve minutes from meetings 650 and 651. Mr. MacDonell spoke up, saying that he had a question on expenses in 650. Mr. Zavorotny replied that he would check the section. Mr. Conroy made a motion to approve both sets, pending clarification of 650. Mr. Nebelski seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Conroy excusing himself from voting on 650 saying he wasn't at the meeting.

Mr. Zavorotny told the committee members that the packages in on the table in front of them are the "budgets as they stand now." He reminded the committee that this year's budget discussions will differ from those of previous years in that the committee will work together with the selectmen. When the selectmen have department heads in, the selectmen will review the budget with the department head. If committee members have questions, they will then have an opportunity to pose them to the department head after the selectmen have concluded their questioning. The hope and anticipation is that this arrangement will cut time and see better communication.

Mr. Conroy voiced concern about the joint meeting, saying an intimidation factor may be introduced. Mr. Zavorotny replied he shared Mr. Conroy's concern. Mr. Major urged the committee to try the joint meetings.

Mr. Nebelski said one thing the committee needed to look at is labor at the Fire Department; it is up \$45,000. The town is considering a full-time mechanic at the garage; hiring such a person may well save money as the town now pays \$100/hour for a mechanic.

Doug Stevens' possible retirement was discussed. Mr. Major said Mr. Stevens will give two months' notice.

Two posted meetings will be held November 2 and 9. Mr. Conroy will not be able to make the November 9 meeting.

Mr. MacDonell said the meetings might be able to be held across the street at the Police Station. Mr. Nebelski said two more tables could be added to the selectmen's meeting room.

Mr. Zavorotny drew the committee's attention to the memo from TA Jill Collins. The anticipation is to have tax bills mailed out on time.

Mr. Zavorotny told the committee he had no current information from the school and asked Ms. McCosker if she could provide an update. She said "salary issues are still up in the air" as "this is a negotiating year." November 3 will be the first time the school board sees their budget information. Ms. McCosker said budget committee members are welcome to the meeting, 6pm at the SAU building.

TA Collins will order three big 3-ring binders for the budget committee.

Mr. Major said he is watching what is happening in Manchester in terms of possible conflicts of interest related to budgets. He wondered if he and Mr. Carrier should abstain from votes involving school and police department budgets. What portion of the budgets can Mr. MacDonell as Tax Collector vote on? Mr. Zavorotny said the RSA's stipulate that department heads cannot serve on budget committees but do not detail who can vote on budgets. Mr. Nebelski suggested getting counsel's input.

Brief discussion arose on the Police Department with Mr. Conroy noting he gave TA Collins paperwork a year ago on an unheated garage costing about \$80,000.

Mr. Zavorotny raised the issue of line item veto and mentioned MS 7 and 27 and total by departments. Voters can drop a line to zero; the RSA says that in terms of any normally used number, if voters want to drop the line to 0, no money can be spent. The selectmen can vote to put in \$1 to keep the line open.

With nothing further to discuss, Mr. Zavorotny asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Conroy made the motion, was seconded by Mr. Major, and the meeting ended at 6:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorianne Almann
Secretary