

Present: Dorianne Almann, Bruce Bellville, Michael Carrier, Joseph Conroy, Morris Klein, James MacDonell, Tina McCosker, Lewis Major, Mike Darcy (selectmen's rep), Peter Zavorotny. Excused: John Hartnet

Mr. Zavorotny called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall.

He said the first order of business is to elect a chair, vice chair, and secretary.

Mr. Carrier made a motion that the officers currently holding the positions remain (Mr. Zavorotny, chair; Mr. Major, vice chair; Ms. Almann, secretary). Mr. Conroy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Zavorotny said while the meeting would be brief, he did want to hear impressions budget committee members had of the town meeting. He said that when he was asked at the town meeting about the tax rate and responded that he anticipated that it may stay flat, he acknowledged that he was perhaps engaging in wishful thinking. Mr. Zavorotny believes the school tax will go up, perhaps "a nickel, or a dime" while the town's will increase about \$0.60.

What were committee members' take away from the town meeting, he asked?

Mr. Bellville responded that he "thought the meeting was lively," an impression shared by other committee members.

Mr. Zavorotny asked about impressions of townspeople's thoughts about spending money.

Mr. Bellville replied that "people were ready to spend." While he personally is spending money carefully, his feeling is that people at town meeting were willing to spend. Mr. Zavorotny noted that if the trend of the state cutting back continues, towns may be forced to cut back. Mr. Bellville observed that "it's a weird economy." The stock market may be up, he said, but he's seen people going through his recyclables, looking for nickel cans. Mr. Zavorotny noted that, roughly speaking, the voting at town meeting broke down 66% in favor and 33% against.

Mr. Zavorotny told the committee that Mr. Darcy will be the selectmen's rep on the committee. He asked the group if they wanted to meet during the summer; he thought perhaps meeting through the next few months was a good idea.

Mr. Klein asked if Mr. Zavorotny had the opportunity to ask TA Collins about making budgets available electronically via pdf's. Mr. Zavorotny replied that he had not done so yet, but would be doing so. He likes the paper versions as he makes notes on his copies, but agrees that having information available electronically would be helpful.

Mr. MacDonell would like the worksheets scanned; as TA Collins has scanning capability, scanning documents shouldn't be a problem.

Mr. Bellville asked how the school is doing with getting together with Winchester? While it is Winchester's issue that they have the 10 year contract with Keene, he would like updates. Mr. Major wanted to make clear no one is talking about a cooperative arrangement with Winchester; rather, the emphasis is on tuitioning students into Hinsdale's schools.

Mr. MacDonell noted that a couple of people at town meeting asked about an outside firm being hired to audit the school's budget. He thought the idea was a good one. Ms. McCosker replied that she would bring the matter up at the next school board meeting.

Mr. MacDonell would like to meet with the school board and the selectmen before the committee gets the budgets in September/October to "lay the groundwork." He wants to look at preliminary budgets with finalized numbers before Christmas. Mr. Zavorotny noted that the RSA's give budget committees the authority to request budgetary numbers whenever they wish to see them.

Mr. Zavorotny remarked the committee should plan on an April meeting unless he emails the group otherwise. Mr. MacDonell asked if third quarter numbers would be available by then. Ms. McCosker said that third quarter numbers would be available for the school and she will email Ann Diorio that the budget committee wishes to see them.

When it was clear there was no other business the committee wished to discuss, Mr. MacDonell made a motion to adjourn. He was seconded by Mr. Darcy. The vote was unanimous and the meeting ended at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Dorianne Almann
Recording Secretary