

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

6/6/23

Town Hall

Members Present: Dennis Nadeau, Dan Seymour, Sean Leary, Karen Johnson, Alex Duso, Richard Johnson (selectmen rep), April Anderson (school board rep).

Members excused: Janice Nichols, Ken Howe, Mike Bomba

Others Present: Kathryn Lynch, Town Administrator

Chairman Nadeau called the meeting to order at 6:37

Dennis explained that Josh Green will need to step down from the committee because he has taken a full-time position with the town. Dennis has spoken to Bill Nebelski who is willing to fill the vacant seat.

Sean made a motion to appoint Bill Nebelski to the vacant seat

Alex seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Dennis asked about the changes to the emergency management position and how that will impact the budget. Kathryn and Richard explained that the office expense will go to unassigned funds and the payroll monies will be absorbed into the fire department budget since that department will be taking on those duties.

Dennis explained that the school district is looking for a budget committee representative to sit on the search team for the hiring of the next business administrator. Ken Howe had expressed interest if nobody else wanted to fill the position.

Alex made a motion to nominate Ken for the spot.

Sean seconded

Motion passed unanimously

Financials from the school district and the town were handed out for review. These had been previously sent to the budget committee via e-mail.

Dan asked about the HR position as well as line items in the town clerk budget, specifically state fees. He doesn't think the manner of reporting the is transparent to the taxpayers.

Richard explained that revenues and expenses are reported separately and the they are a wash at the end of the year.

Discussion followed.

Kathryn reported that the system the town uses to report financials and budget items is antiquated. The town is looking to upgrade their system.

Dan questioned why some of the line items are labeled the way they are. He believes these titles can lead to confusion.

Richard reiterated that the town's current system is antiquated. The new system will be better. The new system will not be in place for this coming budget cycle but will be in place for the following one.

Karen noted that several departments were already "in the hole" and asked where the money would come from to cover these.

Kathryn explained that it is a bottom line budget. So at the end of the year, some lines will be over and some under will be under.

April confirmed that this will be the same for the school district.

Richard advised the committee that welfare expenses will show a significant increase and that this is a situation that will not likely change in the near future.

Richard suggested a follow up meeting to give committee members time to look at the financial information handed out this evening.

April explained the schedule of availability for the school numbers.

Karen asked April for breakdown of the SAU employees. This request was made at the last meeting in March and she had not received anything as of yet.

April asked about eh status of the secretary position. Sean had expressed interested but Janice had said she wanted to keep the position.

Karen asked for the 3 year comparison report for town budgets. She would prefer to have this before the start of budget season.

Karen mentioned that she would prefer paper copies of the financials vs electronic. Other committee members agreed.

Alex asked for an excel spreadsheet if it was available.

Discussion was had concerning meeting minutes. Sean had sent corrected meeting minutes to Dennis after the last meeting. A copy of the March minutes had not been sent to the committee prior to tonight's meeting so the group decided to table approval of the March minutes til the next meeting. Sean explained that draft minutes for March are posted on the website and reminded the group that minutes must be made available within a specific timeframe.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 27 6:30pm at town hall

Alex motioned to accept that date and time

April seconded

Motion passed unanimously.

Alex motioned to adjourn

April seconded

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.