

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday, August 15th, 2013

Present: Ann Howe, Chris Howe, Steve Londrigan, Matt Murphy, Proctor Wentworth

Visitors: Pricilla Lindquist, Penny Williams

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Mr. Murphy at 7:00pm. Mr. Howe led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

New Business

The committee began by welcoming Mr. Chris Howe who was recently appointed by the selectman to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Mr. Mesa-Tejada.

The committee reviewed the earlier liaison assignments and discussed how to redistribute them after Mr. Mesa-Tejada's resignation. After some discussion it was decided that the committee should retain three liaisons for the school board with Mr. Londrigan agreeing to fill the vacancy. Mr. Howe assumed the other vacancy which was the liaison for solid waste and also assumed the Recreation liaison responsibility from Mr. Londrigan. Ms. Howe, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Wentworth expressed a desire to keep their original assignments. The final assignments now read:

Ms. Howe: School Board, Cable TV, and Conservation Commission

Mr. Howe: Solid Waste and Recreation

Mr. Londrigan: School Board, Police and Library

Mr. Murphy: School Board and Highway

Mr. Wentworth: Selectman, Town Clerk & Tax Collector and Fire

Old Business

Mr. Wentworth expressed his disappointment with how the resignation and appointment had been handled by the board and the selectman. He indicated that typically this process takes one month allowing people who are interested in filling the position be allowed to apply. Mr. Wentworth indicated the selectman tried to fill it on the same day as the resignation was received but the selectman later decided to table the nomination until their next meeting 2 weeks later. Mr. Wentworth went on to note that 2 members were not notified of the resignation. Mr. Londrigan affirmed he learned a few days later at another town function of the resignation. Ms. Howe indicated she learned at the selectman's meeting of the resignation. Mr. Wentworth also mentioned that the committee never got a chance to see who had expressed interest in running and make a recommendation as a group to the selectman as to whom they felt would be suitable to fill the vacancy. Mr. Wentworth felt Mr. Murphy's recommendation of Mr. Howe during the selectman's meeting was inappropriate and a potential conflict of interest given that Mr. Murphy's brother is the chairman of the selectman. Mr. Murphy indicated that the manner in which the selectman choose to fill the role is out of his control and he apologized for the lack of communication with the other committee members. He indicated he attempted to persuade Mr. Mesa-Tejada into staying on the committee but without success.

Mr. Wentworth concluded by indicating he felt it terribly inappropriate that a husband and wife be on the same committee, budget or otherwise. He stressed he held no personnel grudge against Mr. Howe as part of this belief.

Mr. Wentworth asked if the committee could approve the meeting minutes from the previous meeting in June. Mr. Londrigan apologized and indicated he did not bring them with him as he did not see them on the agenda. Mr. Murphy entertained a motion to defer approving the minutes until the next meeting which was moved by Mr. Londrigan and 2nd by Mr. Wentworth. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Ms. Lindquist reminded the committee that they are required to submit their minutes to the town clerk. Mr. Londrigan indicated that he did send along the meeting minutes accordingly but failed to bring them to the meeting.

Mr. Wentworth moved to adjourn the meeting with Mr. Howe seconding the motion with the motion passing unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15.