

**OFFICE OF SELECTMEN
6 HOLLAND STREET
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MOULTONBOROUGH, NH 03254**

Joint Board Meeting

May 7, 2009

MINUTES

School Board: Bill Blackadar, Mark Borrin, Fox Smith; Absent: Kathy Garry and Laurie Whitley (Both w/prior notification);
Selectmen: Karel Crawford, Joel Mudgett (6:10pm), Betsey Patten, Ed Charest, Jim Gray (6:22); Carter Terenzini, Town Administrator
Advisory Budget Com: Jean Beadle, Ed Marudzinski
Library Trustees: Phyllis Prouty, Barbara Sheppard, Dick Geden

Karel Crawford called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

Jean Beadle explained this was to present the Advisory Budget Committee's (ABC) wrap-up and their recommendations going forward. The main thing was to reconsider the timeline(s). The School Board and Board of Library Trustees (BoLT) seemed okay, but it would have been better to receive the town's budget about 3 weeks earlier. She also noted that the goal had been to make the process collaborative, not confrontational, and she thought that worked out fairly well.

Mark Borrin felt the key was the questions that were asked. He said the SAU worked hard to answer them, but "Please keep asking them." Bill Blackadar also thought it worked well but was disappointed in the resignations as the initial learning curve was key. Ms. Fox reiterated those thoughts saying that the questions posed by the ABC made the SAU look back and revisit how they had come to the practices under question.

Ms. Beadle pointed out a number of recommendations noting that not everything can be done all at once, but that the process was good. Ms. Crawford also commented that the additional set of eyes, and questioning eyes at that, was good to make them rethink how we make decisions.

Ms. Patten commented that the process of discussing philosophy of the approach was good; but wondered if the ABC, with a year under their belt, would now be able to concentrate more on the numbers. She also asked if the public attended any of the ABC meetings. Ms. Beadle said no which was unfortunate as a lot of work went into it.

Ed Marudzinski commented that because there was no public input, and no coverage of the give and take at the many meetings, that it may have looked like the ABC was a rubber stamp, but it was not the case. There were a lot of changes made in the original budgets, but it was done in a spirit of cooperation not confrontation. He noted that once they got past initial doubts/fears of what the ABC was, a good conversation was had between all the parties. Mr. Borrin asked if the ABC thought it was a good set of eyes/ears and Ms. Beadle and Mr. Marudzinski both agreed it was.

Ed Charest commented on his desire for the ABC to get deeper into numbers as well. Ms. Beadle thought that revamping more of accounts into global topics (vs. each having their own account number) will make it easier as well. Mr. Blackadar said he would like to see the ABC take "point" on combined services (i.e. Property Maintenance) and Mr. Marudzinski spoke to shared equipment possibilities.

Ms. Patten inquired of Phyllis Prouty how the BoLT thought it went. Ms. Prouty said the Trustees were adamantly opposed at first, but they turned around. They worked mostly with Ms. Beadle who worked hard to understand the Library RSA. She said the Library had already implemented one suggestion and was in the process of looking at a second. One thing in favor of the ABC was that we all worked together without being confrontational.

Ms. Beadle spoke to the differences of advisory versus elected and a disadvantage to the community of a committee doing a budget (without having to be invested in making it work and accomplish Board goals). Mr. Blackadar said that was a bit like him doing someone else's grocery shopping.

Mike Lancor brought up the issue of expanding scope to cover comments on practices and procedures and Carter Terenzini brought up the ABC's suggestion of having alternates. Ms. Beadle said she viewed alternates as fully participating, but only voting when a regular member can't. Ms. Prouty weighed in favoring alternates as the Trustees have one as well.

Ms. Crawford asked if both boards (SAU/BoS) were in favor of continuing this. Mr. Blackadar was, but said we should not hold their role back. Ms. Crawford agreed, but did note that both an elected and Advisory ABC are restricted by law from participating in labor/contract negotiations. The consensus of all was to continue for another year. The next steps are:

1. Carter T., Mike L. and Jean B. will work to revise the charge and composition with these thoughts.
2. There will be a joint board meeting (BoS/SAU) on June 11, 2009 at 6 pm to review the revised Draft and make new appointments.
3. The two resignations are acknowledged, but will be held until that time. Ed C., Jim G., Laurie W., Kathy G., and Phyllis P. will interview potential candidates and make recommendations at that time.

Mark Borrin moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 pm; Joel Mudgett seconded. The vote was Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved: May 7, 2009

Carter Terenzini, Town Administrator

Karel A. Crawford, Selectmen Chair