

MOULTONBOROUGH ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2013

Present: Jean Beadle, Kathy Garry, Barbara Sheppard, Alan Ballard

Absent: Chris Shipp (by prior notice)

Public: Nancy Wright

Chairperson Beadle called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM in the Program Room of the Library, following the meeting with MVSBS and various town, school, and library representatives.

The minutes of the November 25, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously following a motion made by Kathy who was seconded by Barbara.

Jean began with a brief review of the Library budget which showed expenses up a nominal \$10,944 or 2.35%. The budget presented is in a preliminary stage and Barbara indicated that it will be reformatted prior to final submission for the public hearing.

The ABC report on the Library will contain some comments about the measures that have been taken to improve internal controls and reporting plus the steps taken to improve the reconciliation of their numerous accounts.

The School report will contain all the points previously discussed and will be reviewed at the January 14, 2014 school board meeting. Points to be brought up include many that have been mentioned in previous reports such as vocational education, co-curricular and longevity factors, technology goals, review, auditorium, and overall budget. Additional comments may be made concerning the MA curricular and how it prepares graduates to either go on to higher learning or to go into the workforce with the necessary skills.

The Town report will again focus on numerous items starting with the Revolving Recreation Fund and will comment on other subjects such as pay for performance, installation of new software, VNA program, Police budget, technology fund, cost sharing of personnel benefits, and a no cost salary survey.

Two other topics were discussed at some length: recognition of intensive upcoming capital expenditures and the idea of planning for future retirements.

Jean pointed out that there are currently numerous capital intensive programs being promoted and felt that our report should recommend that the BOS prioritize these programs and help the taxpayers gain an understanding of the financial implications of the spending requests. Presently there are several large items being promoted such as the Taylor property, a new gym/rec center, States Landing rehabilitation, sidewalks, and pathway improvements. Alan said that the CIPC was formed to perform this function by making in depth analysis and reviews of these projects resulting in recommendations to the BOS. Unfortunately, this process has been bypassed by the introduction of citizen's petitions.

The concern about succession in key positions was considered to be something that should be mentioned for consideration in the future. There are serious financial and economic implications involved concerning several positions that are presently being held by elected officials. In the event any of these people decide to retire, relocate, or leave their present positions it would be prudent to have contingencies plans in place. One alternative is to have positions change from elected to appointed,

similar to the Police and Fire Chiefs. Such changes are subject to strong feelings on both sides but we think that the subject should be addressed some time in the not too distant future. .

The next ABC meeting will be on January 6 at 4:30 in the town meeting room.

At 5:30 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Alan, seconded by Kathy, and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Ballard
ABC Member
December 29, 2013

DRAFT