

Joint Meeting of the New Durham Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee
Minutes of Meeting ~ September 16, 2015
Town Hall

Members Present: Board of Selectmen - Chair David Bickford, David Swenson, Gregory Anthes; Budget Committee – Chair David Curry, J.R. Jones, David Shagoury, Tony Bonanno, Ellen Philips, Cathy Orlowicz, D. Swenson

Members Absent: Copple Crown Representative

Also Present: Interim Town Administrator (TA) Carter Terenzini; Mark Foynes, Baysider; Robert Chase, Citizen; Cecile Chase, Citizen

Call to Order –Budget Committee Chair David Curry called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board of Selectmen Chair David Bickford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Chair Curry stated the Committee and the Board have had a joint meeting for the past five or six years to give the Committee an understanding of what the BoS goals will be for the coming budget year and what expenditures and/or savings need to be addressed in the budget.

David Curry asked if there was a set of goals on record for FY '16 and what was to be budgeted for, i.e. reorganizations, as they would be helpful as the budget is built. David Bickford said he did not believe the BoS had that type of discussion relative to FY '16. Cathy Orlowicz said since it looks like there may be some significant changes coming at them; she would really like to see more detail and back-up than they have seen in previous years as she felt hampered last year.

Tony Bonanno spoke to a similar request he had made at the CIP committee particularly with respect to financing options. Cathy also spoke to the desire to have better access to contractual information, such as uniforms, so she can understand how the Departments develop their request. There was also a general discussion of needing the information further in advance than previously. David Curry spoke to wanting the CRF & ETF figures by 01/01/2016. He also stated the Budget Committee needs to complete the budget by 1/21/2016. The New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) countdown calendar is now available on the website. David Curry is going to build a review calendar for the Budget Committee and asked the BoS to do the same. TA Terenzini spoke to the reality of getting all of this done given the time available and the resources available. He also spoke to areas where he believe personnel could be expanded upon.

David Curry asked if there was going to be action on the MRI report (e.g. service level) so the FY '16 budget reflects the decision process. BoS Chair Bickford stated they plan to act on the report this year which would be reflected in the FY '16 budget. David Swenson suggested the BoS should have a public meeting to discuss the report and its impact and Chair Bickford concurred.

Chair Curry asked and learned from Tony Bonanno that the CIP hoped to wrap up their report by mid October. Chair Bickford spoke to potential costs for a study of the local roads and the cost for paving the gravel roads. A discussion of the maintenance costs of gravel roads vs. paved roads and the needs of maintaining the currently paved roads ensued as did a discussion of the state of the audit and when

the MRI report can be made available took place. It was asked and agreed that it would be posted soon.

David Curry spoke to the statute allowing the Town's to create budget committees and the role of the Budget Committee and the natural tension that can exist between it and the BoS. He also asked if the BoS would again prepare the Default Budget and spoke to the value of having it as each department comes in. TA Terenzini said he could do it but folks need to understand the process may be in flux. It also appears that the budget amendment to transfer monies from the PA account to the individual departments will need to be done.

David Curry asked if there was a target. David Bickford said he always wants to shoot for less. There was a discussion of the potential drop in assessed values based upon the revaluation, and impact on the tax rate and total tax bills ensued. David Curry returned to the matter of whether or not the Budget Committee wanted to set a target and a discussion of across the board cuts ensued. TA Terenzini spoke to the merit of setting an overall bottom line goal as some of the budgets are just too small to cut. After further discussion

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J. R. Jones made a motion to target a \$100K reduction from the FY '15 budget amount. Tony Bonanno seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-1 with Ellen Philips voting no. (D. Swenson did not participate in this vote.)

TA Terenzini said his goal is for a one time submittal to hit the \$2,796,300.

Motion by Tony Bonanno to adjourn the Budget Committee meeting; second by Cathy Orlowicz. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by David Swenson to adjourn the BoS meeting; second by Gregory Anthes. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

TA Carter Terenzini

A video recording of this meeting is on file with the Office of Town Clerk, is available for public viewing during normal business hours, and will be retained in accordance with the New Hampshire Municipal Records Board rules established under RSA 33-A:4, or for a minimum of 24 months.