



*Budget Committee Meeting
Approved Minutes
August 2, 2011 7:00 PM
Town Hall*

These minutes were prepared as a reasonable summary of the essential content of this meeting, not as a transcription.

Chair Paul Martino called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Those in attendance were Bob Hamilton, Dickie Garnett, Michael Golden and Select Board representative Jim Maggiore. Chair Martino stated that Mr. Peck would be joining them shortly.

1. Review minutes from the June 27th meeting

Motion by Dickie Garnett to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2011 meeting. Seconded by Bob Hamilton. Motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Maggiore stated that he was not in attendance at the June 27 meeting so therefore he was not able to vote on the approval of the minutes.

2. Review the open Budget Committee position

Chair Martino stated that he would like for Mr. Peck to arrive before discussing this position.

Chair Martino stated that there is a one year open budget committee seat due to Larry Miller's resignation when he was appointed to the Select Board. He further stated that it is the job of the elected members of the budget committee to appoint someone to fill the vacancy.

Chair Martino stated that they had one person "throw their ring in the hat" and that he welcomed him this evening to speak to the committee.

Richard Stanton stated that he had been following the budget committee meetings for a few years, and has been impressed with the work and the homework that the committee does. He further stated that he appreciated the committee's consideration.

Mr. Peck thanked Mr. Stanton for volunteering to serve on the committee.

Mr. Golden thanked Larry Miller for his many years of service on the budget committee and that he had learned a lot from Larry. He further stated that he thanked Mr. Stanton for offering to volunteer on the committee and stated that he is certainly qualified for the position.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he would miss Larry Miller on the committee and that he considered him a pillar of the former committee. He further stated that Mr. Stanton had contacted him a year ago to check out numbers and he thought to himself how very few citizens do that.

Motion by Chair Martino to appoint Richard Stanton to the Budget Committee's open position. Seconded by David Peck. Motion carries 4-0.

3. Review the Little Boars Head Budget

Dickie Garnett stated that the history of the Little Boar's Head budget is that it seems to run a \$500 to a \$1,000 surplus.

Mr. Garnett stated that last year it was discovered that the liability insurance had been dropped by the town for Little Boar's Head and they had to add a 10% increase to the budget to fund that. The voter's in the precinct voted to approve that amount at their annual meeting. This year that figure is included in the budget which is why there is a \$1,000 increase in the operating budget.

Mr. Golden asked if other insurance companies had been compared for a lower cost.

Mr. Garnett stated that he had gone through Steve Fournier and got three different quotes.

Mr. Golden stated that his point was that the cost isn't any higher than it was in previous years.

Chair Martino stated that the homeowner's in Little Boar's Head precinct pay an additional amount on their taxes to cover their budget of \$22,500.

Mr. Garnett stated that he believed that the additional amount of tax is .14 per thousand.

Mr. Garnett stated that one of the project's that is slated to be done is the ocean boardwalks that have been damaged by winter storms, and it will be a serious capital expense.

Mr. Peck asked what percentage of the resident's of Little Boar's Head actually show up for the annual meeting.

Mr. Garnett stated that it is a small percentage, similar to the town's deliberative session.

Motion by Bob Hamilton to approve the Little Boar's Head budget as presented. Seconded by Michael Golden. Motion carries 6-0.

4. Discuss Subcommittee openings

Chair Martino stated that there was one subcommittee opening for the (Capital Improvements Committee) CIP, and the potential for a school building committee. The school building committee is currently dormant but Chair Martino stated that there is a possibility that it will be revived.

Chair Martino stated that they would table appointing a member to the school building committee and the CIP committee until their next meeting.

5. Other

Mr. Peck read from an article published on the *Seacoast Online* website regarding the Secretary of State's Bureau of Securities Regulation investigation of operations of the Local Government Center (LGC).

Selectman Maggiore stated that he would be sending a letter to the chair of the School Board and to the Principal to see about the possibility of support for opening a dialogue prior to the budget season to get direction on where the budget is going so that we can go into budget seasons with targets.

Mr. Golden and Mr. Peck agreed that this would be a step in the right direction and that it was a great idea.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he sometimes feels uncomfortable with contracts with the police, fire and school, and not having any dialogue in advance. He further stated that the fire department has been negotiating for two years and they will come in sooner or later with a proposal that they will have no input in at all. He further stated that respecting that the governing board and their negotiations have nothing to do with the Budget Committee, Mr. Hamilton suggested that the Select Board meet with the Budget Committee to discuss what their ideas are on negotiating. Mr. Hamilton stated that he felt with the nine members of the Budget Committee and the three Select Board members it only makes the team bigger to have at least input of ideas and thoughts with the responsibility and the action being in the hands of the governing board.

Selectman Maggiore stated that he appreciated Mr. Hamilton's offer and he would take the suggestion back to the other members of the Select Board.

Chair Martino stated that last year Steve Norton from the New Hampshire Public Policy Center came in and gave the Budget Committee a lot of data which started the conversation of where the economy stands and what can the town afford to spend. Chair Martino asked other committee members if they would like to invite Mr. Norton back again this year.

Mr. Peck stated that he felt it was informative and it was helpful to see what he and his organization's view was, but he did not address the Budget Committee's question regarding their most important objective: what is the increase or decrease in payroll in town residents. Mr. Norton stated that they had never tracked that but perhaps it should be looked at, and maybe over the last ten months something has been done about it.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he liked hearing him, and thought he gave a balanced point of view. Mr. Hamilton stated that it would be useful to hear what he has to say.

Mr. Golden stated that he would like to hear what he has to say about the state budget and what the shifting down to the town is going to be.

Chair Martino stated that he would invite Mr. Norton to the next Budget Committee meeting on September 13, 2011.

Chair Martino reviewed the upcoming meeting calendar with the board members. He stated that the February 28, 2012 will be rescheduled as that is school vacation week.

Mr. Golden suggested perhaps adding another meeting to review warrant articles.

Motion by David Peck to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dickie Garnett. Motion carries 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Facella
Administrative Assistant