



Town of Plaistow ♦ Budget Committee

145 Main Street ♦ Plaistow ♦ NH ♦ 03865

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, April 5, 2011

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:32 pm

PRESENT: *Kristin Lewis Savage—Chair - excused*, Martha Sumner - Vice Chair, Norman Bouchard, Michele Conte, Gayle Hamel, Tricia Holt, Joyce Ingerson, Neal Morin, Ben Sadewicz, Leona Stevens, *Catherine Willis - excused*, John Sherman—Selectmen Rep.,

Additional Attendee: Sean Fitzgerald, Town Manager

AGENDA:

MINUTES:

Motion by T. Holt to approve the Minutes of January 13, 2011 as written.

2nd by G. Hamel.

Vote: 8-0-2.

Abstain: N. Bouchard and B. Sadewicz

Motion by B. Sadewicz to approve the Minutes of February 5, 2011 Deliberative Session as written.

2nd by T. Holt.

Vote: 10-0-0.

MEET NEW POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR THE OPEN VACANCY

Potential Candidates: Samuel Sainsbury, Theresa Towle, Dan Bush, and Anthony Riccio.

All potential candidates were contacted, none attended Budget Committee meeting.

REORGANIZATION

a. Chair

T. Holt nominated Martha Sumner as Chair.

2nd by M. Conte.

Vote: 10-0-0.

b. Vice-Chair

M. Sumner nominated Kristin Lewis Savage as Vice Chair.

2nd by B. Sadewicz.

Vote: 10-0-0.

L. Stevens noted that Kristin wanted to thank everyone for their support.

c. CIP representative (2 plus an alternate)

N. Bouchard was previously on the Committee and requested to stay on as Representative.

J. Ingerson was previously on Committee but requested to withdraw.

J. Sherman explained details of CIP meetings.

G. Hamel noted she would volunteer to be a Representative.

J. Ingerson noted she would volunteer to be an Alternate for CIP.

d. Safety Complex Exp Committee representatives (2)

J. Ingerson and M. Conte were previous Representatives but neither could stay on the committee due to other commitments.

L. Stevens volunteered to be a Representative.

N. Morin volunteered to be a Representative.

e. Open Space (1)/Plaistow First Representative

J. Sherman noted there were no Budget Committee Representatives.

M. Sumner inquired why there were no Budget Committee Representatives especially where purchasing would take place at the Committee.

J. Sherman noted the Committee only makes suggestions to the Board of Selectmen and the Committee name is actually the Plaistow First Committee.

f. Recycling – if being resurrected

Budget Committee discussed putting a Recycling Committee together.

J. Sherman noted he would bring their suggestion to the Board of Selectmen.

G. Hamel volunteered to be on the Recycling Committee if one is started.

M. Sumner volunteered to be on the Recycling Committee if one is started.

g. Training Coordinator

M. Sumner noted the previous Training Coordinator representative was Dan Hooper who was no longer on the Budget Committee.

J. Ingerson volunteered.

h. Plaistow First ???

Discussed under e. Open Space - see above.

i. Any other new committees

No other committees to consider.

DISCUSS UPCOMING MEETINGS/SCHEDULE/HANDOUTS/TRAINING

S. Fitzgerald discussed great municipal election; budget passed; budget reflected sound budget process; conservative approach; state spending; cautious; optimistic; Budget Committee did a great job and he thanked the Committee for their support.

Committee discussed Safety Complex Warrant.

N. Morin discussed 9% turn out for voting.

J. Sherman discussed tough to understand and find out the feelings of those who voted no and noted five warrant articles were voted down:

Article 6 Public Safety Expansion Feasibility Study;

Article 13 Raise For The Tax Collector;

Article 14 Raise For The Town Clerk;

Article 17 Human Services - American Red Cross;

Article 18 Human Services-CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

J. Sherman suggested all Articles whether passed or not should be listed on the Town web site and on Channel 17.

M. Sumner discussed Budget Committee schedule. She suggested to start training in September; to have Sean contact LGC; and to see budgets on September 20th.

J. Sherman noted the Budget Committee started too early but the Board of Selectmen would work with the Committee for scheduling purposes.

J. Ingerson suggested to keep it the same.

M. Conte preferred to start later and suggested to start training in the summer and not start the budget until later in the year.

M. Sumner discussed rushing toward the end to get everything in; seeing budgets they know are not going to change; putting those budgets away; and still having the option to go back to the smaller budgets if the Committee wanted to revisit them.

M. Sumner and J. Sherman discussed earlier years of Budget Committee and meeting schedules.

J. Sherman suggested laying out a schedule.

M. Sumner noted she would set a schedule and then meet with Sean to discuss.

BALLOT VOTE ON CANDIDATES TO SELECT MEMBER TO FILL VACANCY

M. Sumner suggested to go into Non Public to discuss the open position of the Budget Committee in regards to the four candidates.

S. Fitzgerald noted a Non Public was not posted and suggested to discuss information in Public.

M. Sumner discussed open position and candidate names. She read the names of the candidates out loud and noted there was only one open position.

The Committee reviewed the letter of intent submitted by each candidate.

M. Sumner noted Mr. Riccio had experience with budgeting.

J. Sherman suggested a secret ballot vote.

M. Sumner agreed.

S. Fitzgerald discussed the Town being in the process of hiring a new Finance Director; conditional offer had been given; and the candidate has a background as Finance Officer in an SB2 town.

J. Sherman handed out a blank sheet of paper to each Budget Committee member and instructed them to write the name of one individual on the blank sheet that they choose for the open position.

S. Fitzgerald collected all votes.

M. Sumner counted all votes and announced the name of the new Budget Committee person: Anthony Riccio. She noted she would notify Anthony tomorrow via email.

Talley of Votes:

Sam Sainsbury - 1 vote

Dan Bush - 2 votes

Anthony Riccio - 3 votes

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

J. Sherman announced the Town web site does have the official ballots listed under Town News.

M. Sumner noted she would update the contact information for the Budget Committee members and email out to the Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Audrey DeProspero