

Members Present: Ian Johnson, Chair, Judy Lucas, Ronn Moody, Jo Lown, Denzil Drewry, John Arnold, Brigitte Casemyr (arrived 7:08 p.m.), Carolyn Spring (arrived 7:16 p.m.). Absent: Cliff Watts.

At 7:02 p.m. Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Open Forum

There were no requests to address the Committee.

Approval of minutes –Meeting No. 3, October 1, 2007, FY2008, Meeting No. 4, October 4, 2007, FY2008, Meeting No. 5, October 10, 2007, FY2008, and Meeting No. 6, October 22, 2007, FY2008.

Committee members pointed out several typographical and grammatical errors in the minutes. Mr. Drewry moved approval of the minutes of Meetings No. 3, 4, 5, and 6 as amended. The vote to approve the minutes was 6 in favor with 6 voting members being present.

Review of Special Town Meeting

Mr. Arnold would prefer to get more information earlier in the process, and hopes this will be better in the spring. He also noted some confusion about the origin of the blue sheet with three-year projections handed out on town meeting floor.

Mr. Johnson agreed and added that some things were added to the Special Town Meeting that did not go through the standard process.

Ms. Lown would like some input on the date chosen for any future Special Town Meeting. There were several committee members who had made prior plans and could not attend the STM.

Ms. Casemyr suggested putting the reasoning behind AFC votes into the recommendations.

Mr. Drewry questioned the reason for Special Town Meetings and wondered if they are being used improperly. Mr. Johnson asked if the Government Study Committee had looked at this issue. Mr. Johnson noted that the contract negotiations and the Municipal Building Committee request were known in advance. Mr. Drewry questioned the need for a STM even for these issues, and noted that in past years these issues would have had to wait for ATM.

Ms. Lown felt pressured by the time constraints in this STM.

Mr. Moody noted that any Raise and Appropriate funding must be done before tax bills are sent out, and that the Board of Selectmen set the date for the Special Town Meeting.

Liaison Updates

- Ms. Casemyr has made a start on visiting the town committees assigned to her. Mr. Arnold has also started visiting committees assigned to him.
- Mr. Arnold, Ms. Casemyr, and Mr. Drewry attended the Association of Town Finance Committees conference. All found it useful. Michael Widmer of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation was the Keynote Speaker. Leslie Kirwin also spoke. Both predicted tough choices facing towns in the future. Ms. Lown mentioned the Capital Expenditures Five-Year Plan with a large bubble coming up in 2009.
- Ms. Lown has heard from several citizens who complained of water and sewer bill increases. These are not property tax increases but affect citizens in much the same way. Mr. Arnold suggested an Average Cost of Ownership figure to include taxes, water, sewer, and school activity fee for an average household in Westborough.
- Ms. Casemyr suggested writing a column for the Westborough News to inform citizens of these issues.
- Ms. Spring asked about options to deal with unfunded state mandates.

- Mr. Johnson shared a note of thanks from Lydia Goldblatt.
- The 2007 Street Lists are available.
- There will be an open forum November 19 at 7:30 p.m. for the Government Study Committee. All minutes of prior meetings are now posted on the town web site.
- Mr. Johnson reminded the committee members that the next meeting is scheduled for December 3. If there is nothing urgent on the agenda he will cancel the meeting.
- The Capital Expenditures Committee has begun planning for next year.

Adjournment

At 7:40 p.m. Ms. Spring moved to adjourn the meeting. The vote to adjourn was unanimous (7 voting members present and in favor).