

**BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

MARCH 17, 2016

PRESENT: Elizabeth Dubrulle (Chair), Scott Gross, Peter Georgantas (BOS Rep), Emily Sandblade, Michael Smith, Craig Campbell, George Fullerton, Karl Soderquist, Dick Fletcher (Village Water Precinct),

Excused: Dennis Lynch.

Absent: D. McCarthy, B. Fournier, Liz Mitchell, A. McKenzie.

P. Georgantas swore in the new board members: Emily Sandblade, Michael Smith, Craig Campbell and Karl Soderquist.

Chairman Dubrulle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 19, 2015

December 1, 2015

M. Smith moved, seconded by C. Campbell to approve both sets of minutes as presented. Vote: 5-in favor, 0-opposed, 4-abstained. Motion carried.

OVERVIEW OF LAST YEAR'S BUDGET PROCESS

P. Georgantas stated the job was made easy with the way the departments and the school district presented their budgets. E. Dubrulle agreed. K. Soderquist was surprised there were so many agreements between both groups. E. Dubrulle stated that the budgets presented were lean and many items were paid for from the unreserved fund balance. The schools budget was less than last year. E. Dubrulle stated that the two operating budgets passed by the narrowest margins.

ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

P. Georgantas nominated E. Dubrulle as Chair. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. E. Dubrulle abstained.

MEETING SCHEDULE AND PROCESS

Additional board members should be present before this is decided. E. Dubrulle stated the Board should meet again next month. P. Georgantas stated we have many new people. We should have a few meetings so that they understand the process and flow of information. D. Fletcher stated there is a bill that has been passed by the House, which eliminates the appointed members. Water works, Selectmen's Rep, School Rep would be eliminated. There needs to be further clarification. E. Dubrulle suggested the Committee wait and see whether the bill passes. There are other two seats open on the board. David French resigned and David Pierce was elected to the Board of Selectmen.

Next Meeting – April 21, 2016.

There is a training session offered through the NH Municipal Association. Speak with the Town Administrator for further information. M. Smith stated it would be helpful to hear from the financial staff in town to hear the details of the town's financial standing. S. Gross stated that the department heads did like it when there was a representative assigned to their department. If you ever want to speak with a department head, they are always amenable to that. Tours were organized last year and they were sparsely attended. The department heads are always welcome to speak with the Board. P. Georgantas stated that sometimes that person ends up as an advocate, which should not be the case. P. Georgantas reminded the board that they are reviewing the spending for the next year's budget. S. Gross suggested everyone read the NH Municipal Budget Act RSA 32. The Budget Committee's job is to prepare next year's budget. It is not to administer the current year's budget. He would like the department heads to provide two different dates for the Committee members to meet with them at their buildings for a tour and question/answer session. P. Georgantas also suggested a few meetings are held so that the new members can familiarize themselves with the budgets. E. Dubrulle will prepare packets for the new board members. E. Dubrulle suggested the meeting with the department heads occur during the fall. M. Smith suggested cost savings initiatives also be presented as part of the budget presentations. E. Dubrulle stated a CIP rep is needed. M. Smith expressed interest. CIP is the Capital Improvement Program. It is for large capital expenses. It is a planning tool to spread out these expenses over a number of years.

ADJOURNMENT

P. Georgantas moved, seconded by D. Fletcher to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Duffy