

Town of Newington, NH
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 21, 2016 Town Hall

Chair John Lamson called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

Present: Budget Committee members: John Lamson, Chair; Sandra Sweeney, Alan Wilson, Brandon Arsenault, David Mueller, School Board Rep and Selectman Mike Marconi

Guests: Andy Head, Fire Chief; Salvatore Petralia, SAU 50 School Superintendent; Jim Katkin, SAU 50 Business Administrator; Deirdre Link, School Board Chair; Peter Latchaw, Newington School Principal; Steve Bush, Library Trustee Chair; Lillian Wilson, Library Trustee Treasurer; Rick Stern, Sewer Commissioner, Eleanor Boy, Recording Secretary and Martha Roy, Town Administrator.

Election of Officers: S. Sweeney nominated J. Lamson to the position of Budget Committee Chair. B. Arsenault seconded the nomination. Hearing no further nominations the vote was called and all were in favor.

J. Lamson nominated Brandon Arsenault to the position of Vice Chair of the Budget Committee. S. Sweeney seconded the nomination. Hearing no further nominations the vote was called and all were in favor.

2016/2017 Budget Committee Schedule: The Committee agreed on a schedule of meetings for the 2016 and 2017 season. They are as follows: December 7 and 14th, January 4, 11, 18 and 25 with a public hearing on February 4th. **S. Sweeney moved to approve the schedule of meetings as presented. D. Mueller seconded the motion with all in favor.**

School Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Budget Review: J. Katkin reviewed the school year- end budget. He noted that there was an unassigned fund balance of approximately \$200,000 that will reduce the school tax rate this fall. He further noted that the school has 50 students this year. Of those 50 students 16 of them pay tuition. 10 pay the full amount of \$6,500 and 6 of them pay half the tuition rate at \$3,250. Half tuition is offered to employees' children and grandchildren of the school district. The capacity at the school is 65 without adding staff. Fourteen percent of the budget is for Special Education. There was a \$12,000 loss in the food service program.

Town Budget through 8/31/15 Review:

Public Works Projects Status: M. Roy updated the Committee on the Mott Pond Dam reconstruction project. It is on schedule and will be completed by the end of September. She also discussed the upcoming takeover of Woodbury Avenue by the Town in 2018 and the paving of Dumpling Cove Road that is scheduled for later in the fall.

Labor Negotiations: M. Roy explained that the Town and Fire union were still in negotiations.

Andy Head spoke about the Fire Department's needs for the upcoming year. The ladder truck is currently in the shop having costly repairs. He stated that the department is reviewing the possibility of purchasing a used tanker and he discussed requesting increased staffing in 2017.

J. Lamson asked for details about the Highway Department and how it will be structured in the future with the takeover of Woodbury Avenue.

M. Marconi stated that he is asking for review of the method for which encumbrances are shown in the budget. M. Roy will speak to the Finance Director and explore other options.

S. Bush let the Committee know that the Library budget is in good shape for this year and they expect to have their budget ready in mid October.

Budget Committee Appointment: D. Mueller moved to appoint James Belanger to the Budget Committee. B. Arsenault seconded the motion with all in favor.

Personnel Plans: The Budget Committee would like all departments to look at all of their positions and what they could do to save the Town money.

Adjournment: J. Lamson moved to adjourn at 8:34pm. S. Sweeney seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Boy
Recording Secretary