



Budget-Finance Committee Minutes

January 3, 2017

Broadcast Studio

423 Webbs Mills Road

Budget-Finance Committee members in attendance: Marshall Bullock, Robert Gosselin, Nicholas Pitarys, Willard O'Brien Richards, Barry Moores, Debra Duchaine, Brian Walker, Stephen Crockett

Budget-Finance Committee members absent: Diana Picavet

1. Called to order at 6:30pm by Chairman Bullock.

2. Approval of Minutes
 - a) March 7, 2016
Motion to approve as previously amended by Mr Walker. Seconded by Mr Gosselin.
Unanimously approved.

 - b) April 11, 2016
Motion to approve as presented by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Pitarys.
Unanimously approved.

 - c) September 27, 2016
Motion to approve as presented by Mr Pitarys. Seconded by Mr Richards.
Unanimously approved.

3. Old Business – Moved to after New Business

Chairman Bullock – I had recommended an ordinance change with

- Officially vote in a Vice-chair consistent with other committees in town
- How to deal with vacancies

I have not gone any further with these at this time because Mr Walker brought up a very valid point. This committee is 9 members. A simple majority would be 5. We have always asked that it require 5 committee members to approve or deny a motion.

Mr Walker – The current ordinance states that a motion will only be approved by a majority of committee members. So, for example, if you have 6 committee members in attendance and the vote on a motion is 4 to 2, the motion would not pass. My thought was could we change the ordinance to require a majority of committee members present, assuming we had a quorum.

Chairman Bullock – That number could be as low as 3. A quorum is 5 members and 3 could carry the vote. Less than 5 members present would not be a legal meeting. I have 2 issues with that. This was added to the ordinance to encourage attendance. If only 5 attend and someone needs to abstain it may not be possible to have a vote. I would like to leave the ordinance as it is. Ordinances would need to be approved at Town Meeting.

Mr Pitarys – Has there been a case of this?

Chairman Bullock – We have had ties of 4 to 4 and they failed due to not having 5 votes.

Mr Moores – What if we went with 12 members of the board instead of 9?

Mr Richards – It is hard enough getting you here! 😊 As a committee it seems like we ought to have 5 out of 9 to make the vote valid.

Chairman Bullock – If we had a \$3,000,000 bond issue I do not think we should have as few as 3 vote on it.

Mr Walker – I want to make sure we get the work done that we are responsible for – to be a check and balance for the Select Board. Not that they need a check and balance, but the town benefits from seeing 2 points of view and 2 perspectives.

Chairman Bullock – It is not up to us to rubber stamp the Selectmen's budget recommendations. It is up to us to investigate and decide independently.

4. New Business

a) Review 2017 Budget Development Schedule

- January 20th – All municipal budgets, including CIP, are submitted to the Town Manager
- February 10th – Town Manager submits budget to the Board of Selectmen and the Budget-Finance Committee
- Joint Meetings with Board of Selectmen:
 - February 21st – Department Head Budget Review #1
 - March 7th – Department Head Budget Review #2
 - March 28th – Budget Workshop
- April 11th – Selectmen consider recommended municipal budget
- April 18th – Budget-Finance Committee considers recommended municipal budget
- April 21st – Budget submitted to printers
- June 6th – Annual Town Meeting

5. Public Comment – None

6. Budget-Finance Committee Comment – None

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:45pm by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Walker.
Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L Look, Town Clerk