

Budget Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 3, 2014

Chairman Goss called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Present were Chairman Joe Goss, Co-Chairman Matt Trahan, Kathleen Maloney, Julie Rosiak, Dave Babson, Tom Kondrat-West Ossipee Fire Rep, Selectman Richard Morgan, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes. Absent were Jim Fitzpatrick, Marie McConarty-Ctr. Ossipee Fire Rep, and Lynne Parker-Ossipee Corner Fire Rep.

Goss stated there to be no minutes to approve from the 8/13/2014 meeting because a quorum of members was not met.

Goss recapped on topics discussed during the previous meeting:

- A letter was forwarded from DRA stating the budget would be adjusted to include the water bond payment that was not accounted for
- An email response was received from DRA regarding the Budget Committee's authority over the Water & Sewer Department's budget
- Dam Authority: White reported that Robert Houle resigned from the Secretary position and a replacement from Freedom will be taking over for him. Selectman Riley will be in contact with John Picard for further information on the Dam Authority.
- Ambulance contract: Morgan reported that following three regional selectmen's meetings he attended, he is now cautiously optimistic that a regional ambulance contract will go into effect. He stated there to be potential for a significant decrease in Ossipee's subsidy. The RFP for regional service is in progress and proposals are due back on October 1, 2014.

Babson reported that he attended the last Water & Sewer meeting but it was short and there was not much discussed. He anticipates more discussion at the next meeting on Monday.

White distributed the Selectmen's budget review schedule and asked the Committee to set dates for their review. A copy of the schedule chosen is attached to these minutes.

Goss announced the next meeting will be on Wednesday, 10/15/2014 at 6:30 PM.

Budgets were assigned to Committee members for review.

Babson left the meeting at 7:40 PM.

Morgan suggested the Committee take voting action on the smaller budgets rather than taking them under advisement and voting at a later date.

Kondrat made a suggestion about scheduling a Public Hearing to act on the Fire Precinct's budgets and to continue the hearing at a later date to act on the rest of the budgets. He will be researching the legality of this.

Kondrat discussed the purpose of the Budget Committee and referred to them as being informational to the taxpayer. Morgan stated that their purpose is to provide checks and balances.

Goss presented three separate dates in December to review each Fire Precinct's budget. Morgan suggested the Committee members attend the Fire Precinct meetings if they are going to review their budgets.

Goss questioned whether the Committee wanted to submit a budget request to the Selectmen to hire someone to transcribe meeting minutes and do research for them. Morgan stated his opposition and suggested the Committee assign a member to record any voting that takes place. Further discussion on this topic ensued. Discussion also took place on finding a college intern who may be interested in doing some research studies for the Committee.

Being no further input, Kondrat made a motion to adjourn. Maloney seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen White, Town Administrator
Recording Secretary