

Budget Committee Workshop
Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Joseph Goss called the workshop to order at 6:35 PM. Present were Joseph Goss, David Babson, Tom Kondrat-West Ossipee Fire Representative, Jim Fitzpatrick, Matt Trahan, Marie McConarty-Ctr. Ossipee Fire Representative, Richard Morgan-Selectmen's Representative and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes. Absent were Martha Eldridge and Lynne Parker-Ossipee Corner Fire Representative.

Fitzpatrick made a motion to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing held on 2/6/2014. Babson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Fitzpatrick made a motion to appoint Joseph Goss to Chairman. Kondrat seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Goss stated he would like to have Committee members choose the departments they would like to focus on for budget review. The following selections were made:

Fitzpatrick – Highway Department
Babson – Transfer Station
Kondrat – Recreation Department
McConarty – Library & Selectmen's Office
Trahan – Police Department
Goss – Town Clerk / Tax Collector

Goss stated he would make a list of other departments for assignment.

Babson asked Morgan if there was a way to make the budget process easier. Morgan answered that when the budgets reach the Budget Committee, the budgets have already been reviewed by the Department Heads and Selectmen. He commended the Committee for beginning the review process early. He added that there was unnecessary debate on policy and procedure which did not accomplish anything in the last budget process.

Fitzpatrick commented on the economic state of the Country and led discussion on wages and benefits. White stated she would email the Wage and Benefit survey provided by NH Municipal Association to provide insight on the wage and benefit packages for Town employees.

Babson questioned if performance evaluations are completed for non-Union positions. Morgan answered that non-Union positions receive the same treatment as Union positions and employees are subject to a constant review of job performance.

Goss stated there to be a lack of communication between the Selectmen and Budget Committee. He added that he would like to see attendance of Committee members at the weekly Selectmen's meetings. After short discussions, Morgan suggested the Selectmen and Budget Committee meet every 2-3 months.

Discussion took place on how to produce more revenue in Town to help offset monies needed to be raised through taxation. Goss suggested timber harvesting on Town-owned properties. This led to further discussion on commercial development, timber and excavation monitoring and the Economic Development Committee.

Fitzpatrick announced he had received notice from Chester “Ski” Kwiatkowski requesting consideration for the Budget Committee vacancy. Goss questioned the vacancy. White stated that Jane ter Kuile had given her resignation to Donna Sargent prior to Town Meeting and that she had received an email confirmation from ter Kuile yesterday. Fitzpatrick made a motion to appoint Kwiatkowski to fill the vacancy. The motion did not carry. Goss stated that he would like the vacancy posted to the public to see if there was further interest. White stated that she would advertise the vacancy and have the Selectmen announce it at their next meeting.

Trahan asked if there was a way to better prepare for the warrant article information. Discussion took place on the deadline for petition warrant articles and the finalizing of the Town Warrant. Morgan added that it does not make sense to review the warrant articles until they are in final status because it could lead to unnecessary time spent if the article does not make its way onto the warrant.

McConarty discussed the budget needs of the Budget Committee. Trahan added that certain warrant articles should be removed from comparison because they create a false “actual” when they don’t recur.

A short discussion took place on ambulance study and impact of the Affordable Care Act.

Goss stated he would like to hold the next meeting on Wednesday, May 7, 2014.

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

Adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen White, Town Administrator