

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 12, 2013

PRESENT: William Jacques, Rebecca Davis, John Reed, Robert Fisher

ABSENT: Jeff Pelkey, Roland Fernald (resigned), Edward Strong (out of town)

Meeting opened at 6:05PM.

BUSINESS

1) The Chair noted that she has received the combined listing of questions from the Budget Committee and the Selectmen to the Department heads and that our questions were submitted verbatim with no changes.

2) Outstanding Issues

a) List of all employees full and part time – this would be on that 14 page excel spread sheet from Dan showing the budgets of all departments.

b) Hiring of replacement for the town hall clerk who resigned. Given that Donhauser stated that the office people are not fully utilized except during tax time, rather than hire a new clerk, this would be an opportunity to get someone to do clerk work and also be skilled in finance. This would help meet the needs of the town should we really need someone (which is also a question). CONSENSUS that BC members will raise this issue with the Selectmen at their meeting on the 14th.

3) The Chair presented the idea of the Budget Committee issuing a report to the town with a synopsis of the budget, comparison with earlier years, the warrant articles, and a brief explanation of the BC's recommendations on them. This would be mailed to the townspeople in advance of the Town Meeting in an effort to better prepare the public. John agreed to work with Becky to prepare the budget comparison.

4) MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS – the BC is still not receiving on a regular basis. MOTION by Jacques, 2nd by Reed to approach the Selectmen again and ask for these in electronic form. VOTE: 3-0, Chair Concurs. It was noted that the chair might ask the Treasurer directly

5) Chair presented copies of news article re: the State of Maine's "Open Checkbook" website. Residents will be able to research the details of state expenditures including vendor payments and employee compensation. "The public has a right to view, understand, and track how their tax dollars are being spent". [State Controller] She will be looking at the software the town uses to see if this couldn't be set up here.