

Budget Committee
September 16, 2015
7:00PM

Town Office/Police Station Conference Room

Approved

Budget Committee Members: Judy Brotman, Susan J. MacKenzie, Robin Taylor, Richard Jones, Greg Lange, Charles Ragan, Wilkes McClave and Elizabeth Glenshaw. Select board member: Patricia G. Jenks. Principal: Jeff Valance. Administrative Assistant: Dina Cutting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chair Brotman.

1. Chair Brotman welcomed new budget committee member Mr. McClave. The Committee members introduced themselves and welcomed him.
2. Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes of February 4th, 2015 Public Hearing. Seconded by Ms. Glenshaw. Voted 7 in favor and 1 abstention (McClave).
3. The Budget Committee reviewed the proposed meeting schedule: After a brief discussion Ms. Glenshaw moved to approve the schedule as drafted. Seconded by Mr. Taylor. Voted unanimously in favor.
4. At this time the floor was open for nominations of Chair: Ms. Glenshaw moved to nominate Brotman as Chair of the Budget Committee. Seconded by Mr. Taylor. Brotman opened the floor to any other member who may be interested in being chair. There being no other nominations the motion was voted unanimously in favor.
5. School update: Ms. Glenshaw reviewed the memo from Superintendent Harris (see attachment). Followed was a discussion on state funding and the review of various items. Mr. Valance spoke to class sizes, student population, high school choice, staffing projections, and the Lyme school accepting tuitions student if the class size allows this.
6. Select Board: Ms. MacKenzie updated the budget committee on various items. Ms. MacKenzie reported no significant changes in the budget from the 6 month review. The board has done a wage and benefit review. It is noted 6 employee's wages are low compared to similar towns in NH. The information was gathered using the benefits and wage information from the New Hampshire Municipal Association. The 2016 proposed budget will reflect the necessary wage increases to get the employees to a comparable salary amount. Ms. MacKenzie reviewed road issues. There is never going to be enough funding to get all the roads rehabilitated. The Roads Committee is studying the options for funding and investigating new ideas for road maintenance. After a lengthy discussion Mr. Lange offered to help the Roads Committee to offer some assistance in determining a way to go with a plan for long term maintenance and funding needs for the Town roads. Ms. MacKenzie also informed the budget committee of the upcoming new web design for the Town's web page.
7. The budget committee asked that the Selectboard provide a listing of the Town's priorities, indicating the critical items that need to be included in the 2016 budget.
8. Upcoming meeting reminders:
 - November 4th, 2015-Selectboard presents proposed 2016 operating budget.
9. At 8:25PM Mr. Jones moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Lange. Voted unanimously in favor.

Sincerely, Dina Cutting