

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019

**** For further / detailed information refer to video recording.
SRC-TV website – Choose “Click Here to activate the PEG Media player”
(middle section of webpage), Choose “Limerick” in SRC-TV Playlist Box. Allow
time to download, “May begin later than actual starting time - may take a little while to begin.”*

Presiding: Ed Morgan, Chairman

Members Present: Bill Jones, Steve McLean, Sue McIntyre, Ed Morgan

Members Absent: Howard Burnham, J Paul Donnellan, Justin Reinhartd

Selectmen Present: None

Guests: John McIntyre, resident

1. Call to order – count for quorum

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.
A quorum was established

2. Accept Minutes from Previous Meeting

Bill Jones motioned to accept the meeting minutes of previous meeting, seconded by Steve McLean. Vote taken. Motion passed with all in favor.

3. Vote on Warrant Articles 20 & 68

Proposed Article 20:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$1,065,300.00 estimated revenues from Excise Taxes, Fees, Urban Rural Improvement Program, Department Revenues and Unassigned Funds to reduce the 2019 Tax Commitment.

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|---|-----------------------|
| State Block Grant | 41,000.00 |
| Excise Taxes..... | 600,000.00 |
| Boat Fees..... | 8,000.00 |
| Agent Fees..... | 11,000.00 |
| Clerk Fees..... | 3,800.00 |
| Code Enforcement | 30,000.00 |
| Planning Board | 2,000.00 |
| Recreation | 3,000.00 |
| Town Hall Rentals..... | 500.00 |
| Fire Department | 1,000.00 |
| Bank Interest | 10,000.00 |
| Property Tax Interest..... | 30,000.00 |
| Transfer Station | 25,000.00 |
| Transfer from Unassigned Account to reduce tax commitment | 300,000.00 |
| Anticipated Revenues to Offset Tax Commitment | \$1,065,300.00 |

Bill Jones motioned to accept Article 20, as described above, seconded by Sue McIntyre. Vote taken. Motion passed with all four (4) in favor

Proposed Article 68:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$50,000.00 from the unassigned account to the Capital Project Reserve Account.

The group wondered what the basis was for arriving at a \$50,000 amount. No Selectmen present to answer this question. It is assumed that the \$50,000 amount most likely represented the total sum of the two (2) separate articles on the Warrant that will be requesting funds for the Brick Town Hall. One request will be for about \$35,000 for repointing while the other will be for about \$15,000 for Handicap Access Pathways. These two amounts would total that \$50,000.

Bill Jones motioned to accept Article 20, as described above, seconded by Sue McIntyre. Vote taken. Motion passed with three (3) in favor and one (1) against.

4. Other Business

Comments and questions surfaced about the current process (or, lack thereof) over groups coming before the Budget Committee for review. Steve stated he would like to see questions answered in a timely manner. The Budget Committee should have more exact numbers when it comes to revenue in comparison to what is expended. Although the Committee had made some progress this year, there are still lingering issues. The Budget Committee has still not been notified of any scheduled Joint Meeting with the Town's Auditor. Questions as to whether more monies could have been used to reduce the tax commitment could have been answered. The role of the Budget Committee is to be the "checks and balance" for the Town's taxpayers. Bill noted that the Select Board had already received a "draft report" from the Auditor and wondered why the Budget Committee could not have met with the Select Board to at least review that "draft report". Ed replied that the final report would most likely contain more detailed information.

In moving forward, Ed recommended that the Budget Committee meet on a regular basis to assess this past year's process and to see how it could be improved. Sue added that when most Department Heads come before the Budget Committee for review many already come prepared and have some type of paperwork supporting their requests. But there are some instances, especially when it comes to funds for Capital Projects where there exists a lack of documentation / paperwork, or, at the very least, if it does exist, it is not provided to the Budget Committee. The "burden of proof, so to speak, rests on those who are requesting the monies from the taxpayers. The Budget Committee should consider developing a process/ procedure where proper documentation, quotes, etc., are provided to the Budget Committee prior to any formal review of funding requests, transfers, etc.

5. Adjourn

Steve McLean motioned to adjourn, seconded by Bill Jones. Vote taken. Motion passed with all four (4) in favor.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Next Meeting: TBA

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzanne McIntyre
Recording Secretary