

TOWN OF SEABROOK

BUDGET MEETING

APRIL 16, 2009

Present: Don Hawkins 6:00PM
Peg Weare
Paula Wood
Richard Maguire
Ivan Eaton
Cora Stockbridge
Gary Pitts
Aboul B. Khan

Mr. Hawkins opened the meeting at 6:03PM.

Mr. Hawkins introduced and welcomed the new members to the budget committee.

PREVIOUS MINUTES - JANUARY 19, & 22, 2009

MOTION: Richard Maguire To adopt the minutes of
Second: Aboul B. Khan January 19.
Abstain: Cora Stockbridge and Gary Pitts
Motion passed.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To adopt the minutes of
Second: Aboul B. Khan January 22.
Abstain: Cora Stockbridge
Motion passed.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Mrs. Wood suggested waiting until the next meeting for a full board.

CRITIQUE OF THE 2009 BUDGET PROCESS

Mr. Hawkins explained what he would like to see and why it would be beneficial to establish a sub-committee.

Mrs. Stockbridge she has a problem with having sub-committees as she feels all members should be present to have the discussion. She thinks the process itself was like putting the cart before the horse. She said the Selectmen were making decisions after the budget committee made their recommendations. She feels the Selectmen should make recommendations before going to the budget committee.

Mrs. Wood prefers someone come to the committee versus having sub-committee to handle the discussion.

Mr. Maguire has no problem with either having a sub-committee or not. He said his recollection of the budget was the Selectmen did make recommendations prior to the budget committee decisions.

Mrs. Wood commented about the information that was asked for and a motion made to receive and they did not get the information. She does not have any confidence that this years default budget is any better than last years.

Mr. Hawkins said he recalls it was more on the utilities and gas prices that they couldn't get to an agreement on if there was a contract or not. He said even though they recognize the default budget it is not within the scope of the budget committee.

Mrs. Wood feels it is their right as members of the committee and citizens to know what makes up the default budget.

Mrs. Stockbridge commented that they should look at the current budget and what is in there.

Mr. Eaton said there are too many changes to know if the budget is accurate.

Mr. Maguire agrees they should know the process and how the budget was formulated.

Mr. Hawkins said they should schedule a detailed review of the default budget at the next meeting.

Jon Moore arrived at 6:27PM.

Mr. Maguire suggested at the May 21 meeting going over the items the committee is interest in, then have the Town Manager and/or Finance Manager in on June 18.

Mr. Hawkins welcomed the new school board representative to the meeting.

Mr. Khan said the Selectmen would like to have a meeting with the budget committee prior to the start of the budget season.

There was general discussion on how the meeting should be formulated to get the questions answered on the current budget.

MOTION: Paula Wood To discuss questions
Second: Don Hawkins with the default budget
Unanimous and to have the Town

Manager answer.

MOTION: Paula Wood
Second: Richard Maguire
Unanimous

At the end of the meeting on May 21 to forward to the Town Manager and have answered and be present at the June 18 meeting.

MOTION: Richard Maguire
Second: Paula Wood

To have the Selectmen meet with the Committee before the 2010 budget to discuss the process.

Mr. Hawkins would like to see the Selectmen look at ways to save money even if it means looking at service levels.

Mrs. Wood said it is not in the Budget Committee's realm. It is up to the Selectmen and Town Manager to run the Town.

Mrs. Stockbridge said the duty of the Budget Committee is to assist the voters and it is the Selectmen who sets policies and run the Town.

There was general discussion on what the Budget Committee's role is and what they can and cannot tell the Selectmen to do. Mr. Hawkins explained what he is looking for.

Mrs. Wood suggested that Mr. Khan state at the Selectmen's meeting what happened during the budget meetings and what questions may need to be answered. Mr. Khan said he already does that but appreciates the suggestion.

Mr. Moore said the committee has no authority to influence the Selectmen. The Budget Committee is not responsible to set the budget only to inform the public of the budget that is presented to them from the Selectmen.

Mr. Maguire said there are areas that could be looked at and suggested to the Selectmen. He would like to see the Selectmen look into outsourcing the rubbish pick up.

Mrs. Wood questioned if the suggestions would come from the committee as a whole as there may be some things that not everyone agrees with.

Mr. Khan said he has a list of things he would like the Town Manager to look into and he will be making a motion at the next

Selectmen's meeting. He discussed the various areas he would like to be investigated.

Mrs. Weare said 3 studies have been done on outsourcing trash pick up. She said they would need to look at the workers compensation as well as it could follow the Town for years. Mr. Maguire asked when the most recent study was done and Mrs. Weare said probably about 5 years ago. Mrs. Weare said the only responsibility of the Budget Committee is to recommend or not recommend the budget. Mrs. Stockbridge agreed with Mrs. Weare.

Mr. Moore said he would hope the Selectmen would ask those questions rather than the Budget Committee.

Unanimous

Date to be determined
and to be coordinated
with the Town Manager.

Mr. Hawkins went over the list of things he would like to see this budget season, for example the backup on the health insurance rates, default budget, labor contracts, CIP and the department heads to give a list of what money could be saved or will be saved.

Mrs. Stockbridge asked for a review of the RSA's specifically 32, 91A, 272A and 40:13 as it would be a good idea to review in the fall before the budget season begins, sidebar agreements, full book on the CIP, method for tracking 2009 warrant articles, encumbered warrant articles, reserved funds, unfunded fund balance, treasurer's report and revolving funds.

Mr. Maguire would like to see the end of year report for 2008, report from the sewer department on the formulation of the budget with PMC Bio-Tec terminated and feedback on the costs associated with the process. Mrs. Wood said she does have the numbers if any member would like a copy. Mr. Maguire would also like a status of the workers compensation and warrant articles in a timely manner.

Mrs. Weare said she would just like larger print.

Mrs. Wood commented on Mr. Khan's list and said about \$550K was left out of the default budget and \$25K was left over in the budget so she feels with that and a default budget the Town can maintain the current levels of service.

Mrs. Stockbridge commented the deliberative session adjusted the budget and the final warrant had a lot of notes. She said the

Budget Committee only needs to recommend articles with appropriations. She said the Selectmen approved \$621K for a contract with PMC and they did not have the authority to do so, those are things the Budget Committee can address. She questioned the warrant article for the police station that was voted down but the 2nd floor was already done and the money was going to be used for furniture. She said the money couldn't be used for furniture. She asked where the money came from and how much did it cost.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To address a letter to
Second: Cora Stockbridge the Town Manager on
Unanimous where the money came
from, how much it was
and why was the article
still on the ballot if
the work was done with a
cc to the Police Chief
and Selectmen.

The committee took up the issue of voting on officers now that the full committee is present.

MOTION: Ivan Eaton To nominate Paula Wood
Second: Cora Stockbridge as Chairman.
Opposed: Don Hawkins
Richard Maguire
Aboul B. Khan

Motion passed.

MOTION: Ivan Eaton To nominate Don Hawkins
Second: Jon Moore as Vice-chairman.
Unanimous

MOTION: Jon Moore To adjourn the meeting
Second: Paula Wood at 7:50PM.
Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.
Minutes taken by Kelly J. O'Connor

Approved and endorsed:

Paula Wood, Chairman

Date: _____