

TOWN OF SEABROOK

BUDGET MEETING

MAY 29, 2008

Present: Paula Wood
Peg Weare
Richard Maguire
Ivan Eaton
Brendan Kelly

6:00PM

Mrs. Wood opened the meeting at 6:02PM.

APPOINTMENT

MOTION: Brendan Kelly To plan a time when all
Second: Richard Maguire members present to set
up interviews with all
candidates.

Mrs. Wood said she received a letter of interest and her feeling is first come first served.

Mr. Kelly said he feels the best interest is to hold interviews to see who is the most qualified.

Mr. Maguire asked about the ad being open-ended. He said he respectfully disagrees with Mrs. Wood's opinion. Mrs. Wood commented she is going on past practice. He said he would like to interview both candidates. He said he has concerns with Paul Knowles being on the committee as his brother is an employee and head of the union.

Mr. Eaton said his son is a union steward and he has been on the board for years and has never had a conflict.

Mrs. Wood said if he was elected he has the right to sit on the board with no conflicts and the rules are strict.

Mrs. Wood said she also received a letter from Michelle Heywood asked to hold-off on appointing a member.

Opposed: Ivan Eaton and Paula Wood
Motion passed 3-2.

Mr. Eaton said there should be no qualifications discussed or interviews set maybe just have a letter from each candidate as to their interest in serving.

Next monthly meeting is June 26 at 6PM.

Mrs. Wood said the 2 candidates are Paul Knowles and Matthew Guerrero. Letters of interest were read into the record.

Mrs. Wood said she is concerned with the contractual monies not being carried over to the default budget. Is the money going to be accounted for? She suggested having department heads come into the meeting to discuss.

Mr. Maguire called for point of order and said that the preparation of the default budget is the responsibility of the selectmen unless it is delegated to the budget committee. He said these questions and/or concerns belong at a selectmen's meeting, as they have no authority to control.

Mrs. Wood said as a budget committee member she is concerned with all aspects of the budget.

Mr. Eaton said he can see where Mrs. Wood is coming from but he agrees with Mr. Maguire that it is not part of the budget committee to get involved with the administration.

<u>MOTION:</u>	Paula Wood	To have department
<u>Second:</u>	Richard Maguire	heads explain where contractual items lie.

Mr. Maguire suggested a letter be sent to the department heads advising them of the request to gather the information and to be prepared for the discussion.

Mr. Kelly suggested having the department heads report to the selectmen's meeting to save on costs. Mrs. Wood objects, as she would like to ask her own questions.

Mr. Maguire amended the motion to send a letter asking for areas that are problematic for the current fiscal year and also to look at the default budget with contractual items.

Unanimous

Mr. Maguire asked if an agenda could be drawn up as the department heads come in.

EMERGENCY FUNDING

Mr. Kelly explained the situation and the cost to repair. He said the state would not allow us to dig the road, as there is an off-ramp so must run a new line. The unreserved fund balance is about \$4 million and they are asking for \$250K.

Mr. Eaton said they knew this in November why is it now an emergency but wasn't included in the budget.

Mrs. Wood said she had questions for Mike Jeffers on the technical end. She said the case stated does not explain it well enough to be an emergency. She agrees with Ivan Eaton over the knowledge of the issue in November.

Mr. Maguire asked if this was brought up in any selectmen's meetings. Mr. Kelly said it was discussed but in non-public. Mr. Maguire asked for the reasons it was discussed in non-public.

Mr. Khan said he sat at the last meeting but was not able to speak. Mrs. Wood explained why he was not called upon due to it being a work-session. Mr. Khan explained that originally they thought they could repair the break for \$30-60K.

Mrs. Wood said that money was not included in the budget or discussed in a public meeting. She said they had the town manager, the department head and the selectmen pushing for the water treatment plant but not to repair the water main.

Mrs. Weare said there is no reason why no one knew the size of the main when there is a map hanging on the wall showing it.

Mrs. Wood said the broken main is a big concern and should have been brought up by the department head. She said she had concerns about using the surplus funds to fund articles due to emergencies and now they are asking for \$250K.

Mr. Eaton said he is concerned with the private meetings and said it doesn't work that way.

Mr. Maguire said the letter does state the reason for the emergency and it needing immediate attention. It bothers him as well as to the non-public meeting and that this item does not qualify as a non-public item. The project would not be completed until October 2008 but he does see that it has to be done.

MOTION: Ivan Eaton To wait for a full
Second: Paula Wood board before making
a recommendation.

Mr. Maguire said he would hope to hold a meeting prior to June 26 to take action on this matter.

Mrs. Wood said the last request made to DRA took months to get a response back, so she sees no reason to not wait until the next budget season.

Opposed: Brendan Kelly & Richard Maguire
Present: Peg Weare
Motion tied.

Mr. Kelly explained if they wait until January or February there would be added costs due to the weather.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To call for a special meeting next Thursday 6/5 at 6PM & urge the other members to be present to vote on this emergency funding.
Second: Brendan Kelly

Opposed: Ivan Eaton
Motion passed 4-1.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To reconsider motion and meet on Monday 6/9 at 6PM due to conflicts with 6/5.
Second: Brendan Kelly
Unanimous

Mrs. Wood questioned why there were no figures on the emergency expenditure source form. She said she finds it odd that all engineering services to be done is \$4800, which is just shy of the \$5K requiring it be put out to bid. Mr. Kelly said he would ask about that.

Mrs. Wood requests that Mike Jeffers and Scott Dunn be present at the June 9 meeting.

Mr. Maguire questioned the town manager's involvement with the budget now that he is leaving. Mr. Kelly said they are moving quickly to fill the position.

PREVIOUS MINUTES - APRIL 24

MOTION: Paula Wood To adopt the minutes of 4/24.
Second: Ivan Eaton
Unanimous

MOTION: Paula Wood To adjourn the meeting at 7:44PM.
Second: Brendan Kelly
Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:44PM.
Minutes taken by Kelly J. O'Connor

Approved and endorsed:

Paula Wood, Chairman

Date: _____