

TOWN OF SEABROOK

BUDGET MEETING

SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

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

6:00PM

Mrs. Wood opened the meeting at 6:05PM.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES - JUNE 25**

Mrs. Stockbridge said the page numbers are not correct and she does not have a full set of minutes. The committee will hold the minutes until they get a full set of the minutes to review.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES - AUGUST 20**

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To adopt the minutes of  
Second: Paula Wood August 20.  
Abstain: Richard Maguire - he was not present at the meeting.  
Motion passed.

**BOND - \$1.9 MILLION**

Mrs. Wood read the letter of the school board regarding their presence at the meeting (see attached).

Mr. Eaton questioned how they could put in the article that the budget committee has no opinion when they did not ask for one. Mrs. Wood explained that per the vote taken earlier in the year to do things differently.

Mrs. Stockbridge said the legislature moved to suspend the rules to allow towns/cities and school boards to accept stimulus money. There was general discussion on chapter 229 and what is allowed under this. Mrs. Stockbridge said her questions have not been answered and she is disappointed they did not attend the meeting. There was discussion on the \$100K from the unexpended fund balance.

Mrs. Wood read an email from the school regarding the budget committee not being invited to attend a meeting that included a presentation from Honeywell. She went over her list of questions she asked and what the responses were. She gave an explanation as to her understanding but stated she is not here to answer questions just sharing the information she received.

Mr. Khan questioned if the budget committee has the right to discuss when they have no authority over it. Mrs. Wood said she feels anything that comes down to taxations is their right to ask questions.

Mr. Eaton commented that putting in an article that says the budget committee takes no position is putting them in the ballpark.

Mr. Maguire said the questions have not been answered and statements made included in the article are inaccurate. He said they should state they are very displeased with the school.

Mrs. Wood said she was going to suggest compiling a list of questions and hope to get answers quickly before the public hearing on September 28.

MOTION: Ivan Eaton To move forward with the  
Second: Richard Maguire meeting with no further  
Opposed: Paula Wood discussion on the bond.  
Motion passed.

MOTION: Cora Stockbridge To suspend previous  
Second: Peg Weare motion to allow Don  
Unanimous Hawkins to speak.

Mr. Hawkins said he agrees with Mr. Maguire and the others about moving forward with the meeting. He feels as a courtesy they should have had a representative at the meeting to answer questions.

Mrs. Weare said they would not get the answers before the meeting, as there is no meeting so it would be redundant.

Mr. Maguire commented when minutes are printed on the school board meeting at the bottom of the page there is a bullet with their mission for communication and community involvement, at this point they are not doing a good job of either.

Mr. Khan commented he was not trying to discourage the board members from asking questions he just wanted to know what the rights were.

There was general discussion over questions being asked as a private citizen when acting as a budget committee member. Mr. Hawkins said we should take information anyway they can get it.

Mrs. Stockbridge asked about the department heads line being included in the budget. She said under the right to know law they could send a letter to the department head requesting the information. Mr. Khan said he spoke to the Town Manager and it would be brought up at the next meeting possibly the one after that to get a resolution. There was discussion on whether to send a letter. Mr. Maguire said they should allow the Selectmen's representative to come back with a response to them.

There was general discussion over the budget schedule with the Selectmen. Mr. Khan said union negotiations have began and no discussion over warrant articles at this time.

Mr. Maguire asked about the LGC meeting and if there was a consensus on preparation of a default budget and if it was done wrong or right. Mrs. Wood explained the units vs. dollar amount. Mr. Hawkins said there is no right way to do it and everyone has an opinion. He said they did say the focus of the budget committee should be to get a budget passed, as they have no say over the default budget. Mr. Eaton said with the LGC you will get an opinion and only an opinion. Mrs. Stockbridge explained what she heard and that if you used the dollar amount for years you should stay consistent.

Mr. Hawkins asked what the view is of the Selectmen for the budget this year. Mr. Khan said it is to hold the line and what services would or could be cut this year.

Next meeting is October 15 at 6PM.

MOTION: Paula Wood To adjourn the meeting  
Second: Aboul B. Khan at 7:20PM.  
Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:20PM.  
Minutes taken by Kelly J. O'Connor

Approved and endorsed:

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Paula Wood, Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_