

April 21, 2025 6:00pm Town Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Susan Finnegan, Christine Abdelnour-McKenna, Bill Chase, John Snowdon, Mark Terry, Bill McGahie, Kevin Powell.

6:00pm Susan called the meeting to order

Susan was voted in as chairperson at the February meeting.

Kevin moved for a motion for Christine to be secretary all in favor John seconded

John brought up that there is a correction for the February 26th minutes that the course is 550 per session not per hour.

Susan made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction, John seconded All were in favor.

John made us aware that we all have to sign the minutes, and we will all be doing that moving forward.

Committee Organizational business:

Christine brought some examples of the annual timeline from NHMA with the important dates so we know what timelines we are held to. NHMA will come out with a 2025 version later this year as well.

Christine also brought an example of a rules of procedure we could enact in our budget committee inspired by what Chesterfield uses for their committee.

Bill wants a note about when the budget committee needs to meet for this period of time in the early part of the year.

Christine brought to the attention of the selectboard that we are unsure if we are a chapter 32 town. John was told that we were but Susan has been on the board for 5 terms and was not aware that it had ever been put into place. John will investigate further and let us know

John said that there are a lot of resources out there for budgeting and then there is a book of budgeting that he can get us from the NHMA. The selectboard is going to attend the budgeting meeting and as a budget committee member he would like to have the budget committee and the school board. The budget committee should be making the budget on our own and then meeting with the selectboard to review. This appears tough since we do not know the inner workings of the different departments and boards and may not be aware of why they may need more funding. John said we could attend the meetings alongside the selectboard.

John suggested that Jodi provide us a budget worksheet that the selectboard uses. We would do the same with the school budget.

This will probably take 4-5 more meetings per year at the year end. Christine would suggest we should meet quarterly.

We discussed the vacancy in the school board and how that was challenging when people threw their hat in the ring, this shouldn't be an issue for the foreseeable future and the school board will get the word out earlier down the line.

We discussed if we are a chapter 32 town whether or not we wanted to be. and John informed us that we could do a warrant article to do that, will discuss further at the next meeting.

Budget Discussion

Propane is really high, John wasn't sure why it was so high, will circle back to this at the next meeting.

Sanitation number was really high but that was a mistake on the spreadsheet. Will get it fixed for our next meeting.

Software agreements budget is over because they are contracting with a company called overwatch and they partner with homeland security. The per person seat for town employees is about 114 per month. That will be reimbursed by overwatch.

Highway dept budgets 1000 for building repair and maintenance but they are 3000 for the year. John was not sure the reason for this.

We would like to invite someone from the recycling center committee to give us some predictions on how the recycling center will save us some money.

John will reach out to the recycling committee to invite them to the next meeting on July 21st or 28th.

Bill called the meeting to close at 7:40 Susan seconded, all in favor of closing the meeting.

Meeting adjourned Next meeting is to be determined sometime in July.