

Jan 27, 2020 600pm Town Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Susan Finnegan, Richard Paul, Wesley Staples, Russ Austin, Dean Priebe

Meeting called to order at 600pm by Mrs. Finnegan.

Meeting minutes from Jan 21 were accepted by Mrs Finnegan, and seconded by Mr Austin. All approved.

Next Meeting: Town Hall Public Hearing Feb 7, 2020 at 700 pm

Meeting timing for Budget Committee (both Town and School):

Mr Priebe reported there is a final WTA Contract offer has been presented to WTA.

Meeting moved to a non-public session at 6:05pm

Discussion of a letter from Mr Poklemba written in response to Jan 21, 2020 Budget meeting.

Meeting moved to a public session at 6:16pm

A motion from Mr. Paul, seconded by Mrs Finnegan, to establish a Quarterly Budget Committee review with all Selectman so we maintain focus on budget line items and discussion from Town Budget Committee Meetings.

FY2020 Budget Discussion (continued from Jan 6 & Jan 21)

Selectman Austin reviewed the remaining items from the Selectmen's budget worksheet pages 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 highlighted for followup from Jan 6 & Jan 21 meetings. As each line item was reviewed, discussion occurred when 2019 actuals varied significantly from budget. Selectman Austin had line details and rationale for increases in the FY20 budget. The Committee continued to ensure the 2020 budget number was well planned.

Selectman Austin reviewed the remaining items from the Selectmen's budget worksheet pages 3 & 5. Sections 4909 and 4915 and the drafted warrants were reviewed one by one aligning the warrant to the proposed Budget Worksheets. The budget committee attended the public fire department facility on Jan 23. All Warrants with the exception of Warrant Article 11 were approved by the budget committee. Article 11 is drafted for a Recycling Center top loading container for paper as brought forward by petition. Extensive discussion about the State, National, and global challenges for recycling ensued. Options for our program in Westmoreland to leverage Keene (a couple miles down the road) and the uncertainty of the future costs of the facility, trucking, and recycling revenue were discussed. The committee unanimously voted not to accept the article.

Selectman Austin will work to finalize the Budget, Revenue, and Warrants.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:50pm

Post meeting followup:

- Final Budget, Revenue, and warrants were completed 1/30/2020
- WTA contract offer has been accepted by WTA 1/31/2020