

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

April 3, 2017 7:00 PM

TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Daniel V. Smith, Vice Chairman Jeff Raab, Dave Foltz, William "Blue" Foster, Michael "Mickey" Burns, Dan Hill, Ashley Bowley, Trevor MacDonald, Joan LaRochelle, Town Council Rep Toni Weinstein

EXCUSED: School Board Representative

AGENDA

Dave Foltz welcomed everyone to the Budget Committee Meeting of April 3, 2017 and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dave Foltz said everyone was in attendance except the School Board Representative who should be in attendance at the next meeting. He welcomed new members Trevor MacDonald and Joan LaRochelle to the Budget Committee and passed around a sheet of contact information for all members.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Dave Foltz said they needed to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair and he was not putting his name in this year due to increased responsibilities with his day job.

Dave Foltz nominated Dan Smith as Chairman of the Budget Committee which was seconded by Mr. Raab. All committee members voted in favor of the nomination of Dan Smith as Chairman of the Budget Committee.

Chairman Dan Smith asked for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Budget Committee.

Mr. Burns nominated Jeff Raab as Vice-Chair of the Budget Committee which was seconded by Councilor Weinstein. All committee members voted in favor of the nomination of Jeff Raab as Vice Chairman of the Budget Committee.

Chairman Smith thanked Mr. Foltz and said they all appreciated the effort and time he had put into being Chairman of the Budget Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes of December 5, 2016 – School FY18 Budget Work Session

Mr. Burns made a motion to approve the minutes of December 5, 2016 for the School FY18 Budget Work Session, which was seconded by Mr. Hill.

Chairman Smith polled the Committee and the minutes of December 5, 2016 for the School FY18 Budget Work Session were approved by a vote of 8-0, with 2 abstentions.

Approval of the Minutes of January 9, 2017 – School Proposed Warrant Articles

Councilor Weinstein made a motion to approve the minutes of January 9, 2017 for the School Proposed Warrant Articles, which was seconded by Mr. Foltz.

Changes/Corrections: Mr. Foltz pointed out a misspelling of a name on page 6 of the minutes.

Chairman Smith polled the Committee and the minutes of January 9, 2017 for the School Proposed Warrant Articles were approved as amended by a vote of 8-0, with 2 abstentions.

Approval of the Minutes of January 12, 2017 – School Bond/Budget Hearing

Mr. Burns made a motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2017 for the School Bond/Budget Hearing, which was seconded by Mr. Raab.

Chairman Smith polled the Committee and the minutes of January 12, 2017 for the School Bond/Budget Hearing were approved by a vote of 7-0, with 3 abstentions.

Mr. Foltz pointed out that the School Board had included the first part of the School Bond/Budget Hearing in their minutes, which was why the meeting minutes looked short.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Chairman Smith provided the Roles and Responsibilities of Municipal Budget Committee for new members, and as a refresher for those coming back. He said the excerpts were partly from RSAs and partly from other documents. He said in legal terms they were a sub-committee of the Town Meeting who were all the voters in Newmarket. He said their essential power was to review all the budgets put forward by the Town Council and the School Board, and they had power to make bottom-line adjustments but no control over how it was spent.

Mr. Foltz said the information was a two-page review and that Wendy had ordered full law books for new members which had not yet arrived. Chairman Smith said another thing they did as Budget Committee was vote to recommend or not recommend the budgets after the warrant articles that came forward, and said the results of their voting appeared on the ballot.

Attendance Requirements

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Chairman Smith said there was a Town rule that anyone who missed more than 3 consecutive meetings in a row would be kicked off the Committee. He said the time commitments were relatively modest and they were not busy in the summer. He said they started to get busy in October when the Town and School Budgets were proposed by the Town Administrator and the School Business Administrator. He said there was typically one work session dedicated to each, and said for the Town they had the main Department Heads come in to present what they were proposing for budgets and answer questions. He said on the School side, the Superintendent and the Business Administrator went through their budget line by line.

Chairman Smith said the budget for the Town had to be completed by December and by January for the School. He said they had to be completed a certain time before the Deliberative Session, and said everything worked backwards from Election Day and was pretty much statutory. He recommended keeping Monday nights open in November and December.

2017 Meeting Schedule

Chairman Smith said the 2017 Meeting Calendar was pretty much based on last year and they were not wedded to it at this point and it was open to discussion. He said they typically meet the last Monday of the month until the Budget Season when they meet more frequently. He said June and July were open at this point for vacation, and since there was typically not much going on at that time they saved up dates to use in December.

Mr. Foltz said the Town and the School did not typically get their budgets until the end of July or August as they are busy wrapping up the year. Chairman Smith said he would check with Superintendent Nadeau and Town Administrator Fournier at that time to see how their budgets were tracking.

Next Meeting

Chairman Smith said the next Budget Committee meeting was scheduled for May 22, 2017. He said that last year they had agreed to change the meeting time to 7:00 pm and asked if there were any objections. Mr. Foster asked if the Superintendent could address the possibility of no funding for full day Kindergarten at the next meeting as the State was not proposing to fund it, and Councilor Weinstein explained that Kindergarten was funded differently now.

Mr. Foltz said he would like to hear more about what the School was going to do for focusing in on the Bonds. He said he knew the percentage rate was approximately 0.5% better than they planned, which was a big difference. He said he would like to know more, and that by the end of May they should have a pretty good idea of and where they stood. Chairman Smith said he would reach out to the Superintendent.

Other Business

Chairman Smith asked that Committee members go around and introduce themselves and say what they did in real life.

Toni Weinstein said she served on the Town Council and was just starting on her second term. She said he had 2 boys aged 11 and 13, and served on other boards and activities in Town.

Jeff Raab said he was in the third year of his first term and had been in Town for 5 years, and said he had a son and daughter in the Elementary School. He said he coached Soccer in Town and was a Software Engineer and worked from home 4 days per week.

Mickey Burns said he was on his second term on the Budget Committee and worked for a Digital Marketing Company in Portsmouth. He said he had 2 children, one in 6th grade and one in a modular at the Elementary School.

Blue Foster said that both his children went through the Elementary School and the High School. He said his youngest was a sophomore at SST and his oldest was a student at Great Bay Community College. He said he was a long-term resident and moved to Newmarket in 1981.

Ashley Bowley said she move to Newmarket 10 or 11 years ago and had 3 children, all in the school system from Elementary to High School. She said she had a Child Care Center in Exeter with pre-school and after-school programs.

Dave Foltz said this was his 5th year on the Budget Committee and he had been in Town for 17 years. He said he had a 15-year-old daughter and an 11-year-old son. He said his day job was to oversee the North East for Build-a-Bear Workshop. He said it was good to get into the inner workings of the Town.

Dan Smith said he was at the start of the 3rd year of his first term on the Budget Committee. He said he and his wife had lived in Newmarket for 10 years and had twin 9-year-old sons in the Elementary School. He said he was VP of Gas Supply for an Energy Marketing Company based in Stratham. He said the Budget Committee had been very rewarding and it was great to take part in moving forward some of the hurdles in the Town.

Joan LaRochelle said she moved to Town about 3 years ago and had a 29-year-old son. She said she worked as a Software Consultant for many years, but had given that up and was now doing sewing and crafting. She said she loved what was going on in the Town and said it was amazing to see where it had come from.

Dan Hill said he was in the 3rd year of his first and probably last term on the Budget Committee. He said he learned quite a bit and was motivated to be a part of the process. He said he had 2 children, a 13-year-old daughter in the Junior High School and a 9-year-old son in the 3rd grade at the Elementary School. He said he moved here just over 10 years ago and was a Clinical Marketing Director for a Medical Device Company.

Trevor MacDonald said he live in Newmarket since 2010 and recently bought his own condo. He said he did not have a day job but mixed drinks nights at Margaritas in Exeter. He said he had a huge interest in politics and was interested in getting involved.

COMMENTS

Councilor Weinstein brought up the issue of the election and the frustration of a lot of people. She said she wanted to give a shout out to Town Moderator Chris Hawkins who took a lot of heat, and said she felt strongly that he made the right decision. She said the Town could be in a big mess right now if they had postponed the vote, especially on such a big issue. She said she appreciated the work he had done and the decision he made. Chairman Smith agreed that Chris Hawkins made absolutely the right

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decision, and said it was not an election they could afford to mess up. He said he made the choice that put the Town on the safest legal footing.

Mr. Foltz said he would like to ask Budget Committee members to really pay attention this year to all the bottom lines because they just voted a \$39 million investment in the Town. He said they should make sure to watch everything for both the Town and the School. He said they had a lot of positive momentum and they should not make any missteps.

Adjournment

Mr. Foltz made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mr. Foster. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary