

Approved
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2010

Attendees: Chairman Ann Tierno, Carla Penfield, Kim Byrd, Allyn Chivers, Selectmen's Rep. Carleton Robie, School Rep. Melissa Madden.

Absent: Erin Asselin (excused), Craig Sandler

Chairman Tierno called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Welcome to new elected member, Todd Allen (to be sworn in prior to the next Budget Committee Meeting). Ann provided all necessary documents for him.
- January 30, 2010 minutes approved by 5 members with 1 abstained (Melissa Madden).
- February 6, 2010 minutes approved by 5 members with 1 abstained (Melissa Madden) with an amendment to add BC Members that were present at the meeting.
- February 10, 2010 approved by all 6 members.

Town Expense Sheets

- Carla asked Carleton if there would be any wage increases within the budget. Carleton stated there would be no wage increases other than within the Police Department where the matrix applies. Carla also asked if the Health Director is receiving a stipend for that position and Carleton explained when they moved the Health Department from the Welfare Department to the Building Inspector they did not increase his salary.

School Expense & Income Sheets

- Carla asked Melissa how many teachers are leaving. For the 09/10 year one teacher left and that position was not filled. For 10/11 school year there are three teachers that will be leaving because their positions have been eliminated.
- Discussion related to high school student enrollment. The primary school is Central however, if a child chooses to go to West, Memorial, Raymond

or Pinkerton we do pay the tuition. Kim Byrd noted there were no prior year comparison on the student enrollment report and asked if it would be possible to get that information. Melissa will follow up.

- A request for re-imbursement will be submitted to FEMA for the windstorm damage.
- Election results were discussed. Ann's opinion was it appeared that people are willing to spend money on services they feel are needed. The swap shop and both mosquito articles passed as well. Carla agrees they did vote to spend money. However, the CYAA did not pass, the Fire Department stipend money also did not pass. She continued to say the swap shop was presented as a money saving item. She feels the mosquito program is not necessarily a logical issue; it is more an emotional issue. Carla feels the people at the presentation left with the understanding that it probably would not work for our community. The difference from living in a city where there is a grid pattern is much more effective than a rural environment. Carleton feels that people misunderstood the mosquito control program. They think if \$38,000.00 is spent on the community there will be no mosquitos in their yard, and this is not true. He feels they voted on this article without all the facts.
- Discussion related to the Stipend program for the Fire Department. Lynn Chivers feels the before there is a stipend program we need to trust that they will come out only when necessary and feels there are cases that this practice is not being used. Carleton feels the system they are asking for is set up to police themselves. Carla wonders what the reasoning for the people to vote down the stipend program for the Fire Department and Carleton stated if they were getting something for free now why would they want to start paying for it. He added there are a lot of FD employees that have been with the department for a long time and feels it may be the time for compensation. Lynn added that the timing was bad this year. However, now we have a new Chief and new employees and possibly by next year voting opinion may very likely change.
- Positions will be assigned for the Selectmen at the next Selectmen's meeting so Ann will send to the office a request that the BC would like to keep our current Selectmen Rep. Carleton Robie and will do the same for our School Representative Melissa Madden.
- Next month the BC will be electing officers for the board.

Motion to adjourn at 8:03 pm. All were in favor.

Recorded by Mary Phillips