

MINUTES

Sanbornton Budget Committee

Meeting Date and Time: Tuesday, March 22nd, 2023 6:00pm

Meeting Place: Old Town Hall, 19 Meeting House Hill Rd, Sanbornton NH

Present: Bob Presby, Kate Osgood, Christine Gagnon, Dick Gardner

Others present: Bob Sylvia, Tom Reneau, Nancy Durgin

a. Election of Chair/Vice Chair – Bob Presby made a motion to elect Kate Osgood as Chair. Dick Gardner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Kate Osgood made a motion to elect Bob Presby as Vice Chair. Dick Gardner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Recap from Town Meeting – Christine stated that it would be helpful to see the amount per thousand that each article would cost taxpayers; Kate responded that there is only certain language allowed on those articles per the State. Bob Sylvia stated that he thought the meeting went well and that Ray Masse did a good job of explaining the budgeting process and others agreed.

c. Appointing of new Budget Committee members – Kate explained that Craig Weisman has resigned so there are two openings on the Committee. Kate Osgood made a motion to accept his resignation with regrets. Bob Presby seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Dick Gardner stated that he has researched RSA 32 and 669 regarding electing write-ins that only have several votes; he was surprised that the open position did not default to Dennis Rechcygl even though he did not receive more than thirty votes per the Town Moderator. Kate responded that she did email Dennis and invite him to the meeting and she did not get a response.

Bob Sylvia stated that he is interested in becoming a member; he has lived in Sanbornton for two years and previously managed a company that he owned. Tom Reneau was also in attendance and explained that he has a military background and was a police officer in Sanbornton at one time. He believes in conservative spending and wants to spend taxpayers' money wisely. Kate asked why he ran for Selectman instead of Budget Committee and Tom responded that he felt the Selectman position was a good opportunity to serve the community but he is also willing to do that by being on the Budget Committee.

Nancy Durgin was in attendance and stated that she is happy to offer input to the Committee as time allows but travels too much to serve as a member. Dick asked about the status of remote voting for members and Bob Presby responded that a physical quorum must still be present and can vote to allow a member to participate remotely. Kate Osgood made a motion to appoint both Bob Sylvia and Tom Reneau as members. Christine Gagnon seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

d. Overview of BC responsibilities – Members were provided with an article from NHMA about the role of a Budget Committee. Nancy asked when the Budget Committee reviews ongoing expenditures and Kate explained that they are usually looked at monthly starting the fall to aid in creating the following year's budget, but the BC cannot make changes to the current budget and that is in the Selectmen's purview.

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e. BC schedule – Kate stated that the BC will meet in June when the Consumer Price Index comes out and then again at the beginning of August to review the previous year's final expenditures. Bob stated that the BC will go back to voting on budgets after the Selectmen have reviewed and voted themselves, rather than trying to have joint meetings which delays the process. Kate stated that the BC will also recommend to the Selectmen's Rep that the BOS' wage recommendation is decided on before the process starts. She noted that they also need to make sure the departments follow deadlines so that the process isn't delayed; last year's deadline was August 31st. Bob Sylvia asked if that will be enough time for the departments to prepare their budgets and Kate explained that they already have the spreadsheet for the budget and they just need to plug in the numbers.

The following meeting dates were set:

Tuesday, June 27th at 6:30pm

Tuesday, August 1st at 6:30pm

f. Other business – Tom stated that he appreciated the information the Craig Weisman posted on Facebook prior to Town Meeting and he did not feel it was slanted one way. Dick stated that an argument could be made that a resident should not be posting information pertaining to the budget and acting alone if they are part of the Budget Committee. Bob Presby noted that he would be careful when posting things online due to the Right to Know laws.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27th at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Audry Barriault