

Barrington Committee on Appropriations

Meeting Minutes

31 January 2013

I. Call to order

Kathy Cadigan called to order the regular meeting of the **Barrington Committee on Appropriations** at **7:30 p.m.** on **1/31/2013** in **Library Meeting Room**.

II. Roll call

Geoff Grove conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Kathy Cadigan, Rosetta Narvaez, Joel Helmann, Tim Sweetser, Dean Huff, Phil Hervey, Joe Piccerelli, Ann Strong, Larry Trim, and Jean Robertson.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Tim Sweetser motioned to waive the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

IV. Open issues

- a) Kathy opened the discussion of the capital budget
It was noted that the manager's recommendations (\$984,000) were largely accepted by the Planning Board Capital Improvement Program (\$991,000)
 - 1) Discussion around the sinking fund for fire equipment resolved that the suggested flat contribution is the best way to fund this requirement.
 - 2) Questions about the 'Walker Farm tub grinder' were addressed by Larry and Jean. This machine will reduce compost to dirt grade, which is needed around town. Owning one will pay for itself by avoiding the costs associated with hiring this service and paying for material to be hauled away. We are putting money aside to buy a good quality used tub grinder in about four years. It will be accounted for inside the DPW capital fund.
 - 3) The Town Hall and Public Safety building energy management systems are sorely needed and will prevent wasted energy.
 - 4) A full revaluation will cost approximately \$400,000.
 - 5) Tim questioned the Harbormaster request for \$8,000 to replace the patrol boat engine. The planning committee will get information back to COA.
 - 6) The COA agreed with the CIP that a generator for the library is a luxury that is not needed at this point.
 - 7) The request for \$25,000 for the Bay Spring Community Center met vehement opposition by several members of the COA. It was determined that this request should be denied.
 - 8) Discussion around irrigation of Chianese fields raised concerns about well water over methane-infused landfills, even if they are clay capped. Joe addressed these concerns – DEM won't allow a well to be drilled. DPW

wants to put in an above-ground system that keeps the grass healthy but avoids the DEM concern of too much water over the capped landfills. These fields get a lot of year-round use.

- 9) The \$2,000,000 request for roadway/drainage/sidewalk improvements is being considered by the Town Manager and is supported by the CIP and the COA.
- b) Review of the 2012 Audit
- 1) Property abatements are very large and are pressuring the tax levy before any budget increases are considered.
 - 2) Discussion around the discrepancy between the expenses detailed on page 9 of the audit – Change in Net Assets – is explained in part by cash versus accrual. Depreciation is a large number.
 - 3) The net change in the Fund Balance was positive for the year – increase of \$879,904 – is attributed to increases in revenue and decreases in expenses.
 - 4) Where is the money represented in Student Activity Fund (pg 95) accounted for? This looks like revenue and expenses that are not shown in the School budget. Ron Tarro is the person with the answers. Kathy will forward questions

V. Next Meeting

- a) The next meeting is scheduled for 2/12 at 7:00 p.m.

VI. Adjournment

Kathy Cadigan adjourned the meeting at **10:00 p.m.**

Minutes submitted by: Geoffrey Grove