

## Barrington Committee on Appropriations

Meeting Minutes  
January 29, 2014

### Opening

The regular meeting of the Barrington Committee on Appropriations was called to order at 7:05 p.m. on January 29, 2014 in the School Committee Room in Town Hall by Tim Sweetser, the Committee Chair.

### Present

Tim Sweetser, Geoff Grove, Joel Hellmann, Chad Mollica, and Ann Strong, TC Liaison

### Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

### Approval of Minutes

This was the first meeting of the Committee on Appropriations for the budget year.

### Open Issues

Discussion pertaining to election of officers Issue raised by Joel, Chad, Geoff.  
Nomination of Tim Sweetser for Chair - Geoff Grove made motion. Joel Hellman seconded. All voted in favor. Chad Mollica nominated Geoff for vice chair. Joel Hellman seconded. All voted in favor.

Discussion of keeping of minutes and how they will be submitted to Town Clerk.

Discussion of length of meetings. Members were asked to show up on time, leave on time. Meetings will run from 7pm to 9pm.

Comment [Ma1]: e

Discussion of Audited Budget:

First year "Race to the Top Money" has appeared in Budget in the "off budget" sources of money along with the Title I & Title II monies. These monies can be used to hire teachers. These monies DO NOT appear in the school budget. Based on conversations with the RI Department of Education, in two years these monies must, by law, appear in the budget.

Unfunded Liabilities such as Pension Contributions also do not appear in the budget. It was noted that a clear picture of school and municipal finances should include unfunded liabilities.

Based on discussions between the Committee on Appropriations, TC, School Committee, and Charter Review, at the Charter Review Commission meeting on January 26, 2014, Geoff revisited the idea to make the Budget Hearing (two weeks prior to FTM) a better educational opportunity for taxpayers. Discussion ensued about how to best present this via PowerPoint and other technology.

In addition, the Committee on Appropriations suggests the submission of a monthly Letter to the Editor to apprise the public of progress of the budget and invite public participation in the process.

A review for Chad ensued that outlined the type of information that is provided/requested for budget analysis. These included departmental budgets and requests and school budget. Discussion ensued about different segments of the budget including capital, general expenses, and salaries and the records that the group thought they would need to request for deliberations. Tim will make requests of various departments for the materials, hopefully in PDF format.

Geoff asked when the total valuation of town real estate property would be available. This was unknown by members. Tim will reach out to obtain this information. This is an important number for the Committee to devise the budget. Geoff will review last year's records to check details regarding tax levy and budget. He will report back at the next meeting.

Group exchanged phone numbers and contact info and reviewed Open Meetings rules and regulations.

Geoff asked sequence of receipt of budget from School Department and Town. Joel reviewed dates as outline in the Town Charter. Chairman Sweetser will inquire about specific dates.

Group made review of the calendar to determine a meeting schedule for the upcoming months. Next meeting is scheduled for February 10 at 7pm. Agendas will be submitted to the Town Clerk who will post as required.

Geoff inquired about Planning Board Capital Review meetings. Joel indicated that these sessions have begun. Geoff suggested that the COA meet with this group.

Joel presented an overview of the School Department's budget discussions this far including capital items, various programs, and salaries. Chairman Sweetser suggested dates for the School Department to present their budget to the Committee.

**Agenda for Next Meeting**

Items for discussion at the next meeting include the audited Town Budget, the School Committee budget, future meeting schedule, and capital expenditures.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. by Tim Sweetser, the Committee Chair. The next general meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on February 10, 2014, in a location to be determined.

Minutes submitted by: Geoffrey Grove

Approved by: Timothy Sweetser