

# **Barrington Committee on Appropriations**

Meeting Minutes  
February 10, 2014

## **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Barrington Committee on Appropriations was called to order at 7:08 pm on February 10, 2014 in The Barrington Senior Center by Tim Sweetser.

## **Present**

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

## **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

## **Open Issues**

Discussion of responsibilities as COA is operating one member short. Joel-school; Geoff- scribe, handbook; Tim/Chad - town

Discussion of future meeting dates: Schedule is tentatively set as Feb 10, 19, 24th; March 6, 11 (tentative), 18, 25; April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; May 6. May 14 is budget hearing. May 21 is FTM. Meetings are all scheduled for 7 to 9 pm.

Tim requested W-2 (redacted) from both town and school departments. Chad suggested looking at trends in salaries to shed light on impact on budget. A discussion ensued on funding the pension fund and the difference in funding between municipal and school departments.

Joel indicated that all contributions are mandated by the state. Chad would create a set-aside account for the school department. Tim cited the example of West Warwick as a municipality that underfunded their pension fund. Geoff suggested that we discuss this with the school department. Geoff also talked about how this will impact the five-year budget forecast. This will be the second year that this mandate is in place. He said that each year the state will tighten the parameters of what that report is mandated to contain.

Geoff would like to see the total tax base including residential, commercial, and auto taxes to validate Barrington's tax rate: \$42 per \$1000 with \$1,500 exemption.

Geoff stated that the Town Council and School Committee stipends are the lowest in the state and would also like to compare stipends in other towns. A conversation ensued. It was decided that, once data from other towns has been collected, a more in-depth conversation would ensue over the course of deliberations.

Joel led a conversation about how to best present the intricacies of the school budget- including the decrease in students. Consensus was that it's a bottom-line budget and that is how we would approach.

**Agenda for Next Meeting**

School budget

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm by Tim Sweetser. The next general meeting will be at 7:00 pm on February 19, 2014, in the Barrington Senior Center.

Minutes submitted by: Geoff Grove

Approved by: Committee 3/5/14