

Barrington Committee on Appropriations

Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2015

Opening

The regular meeting of the Barrington Committee on Appropriations was called to order at 7:10 p.m. on 2/17/2015 in the Barrington Senior Center by Geoffrey Grove.

Present

Geoff Grove, Peter Dennehy, Melissa Horne, Peter Clifford, Chad Mollica.

Also present: Ann Strong Town Council Liaison.

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

Budget Forecasting Committee. Geoff explained that the Town Council wishes to resurrect the committee, which includes two members from Appropriations, two members from School Committee, and two members from Town Council to create a five-year forecast for the town budget. Geoff indicated that he would be willing to serve. Peter D. volunteered as well. Chad suggested that the information produced in this committee should be available prior to the Financial Town Meeting. Geoff expressed skepticism that this could be done, but agreed that it would be good.

Budget Format. The committee discussed the difference between the Audited Annual Financial Report (Actual) and Financial Town Meeting Presentation (Budget). Peter C took the initiative to develop a format that establishes the baseline for next year's budget by analyzing the prior year expenditures presented in the audit report. Using the actual numbers presented in the audit report, and comparing them to the budget, will provide the needed perspective to evaluate the budget presented to Appropriations in March. Peter C met with both Kathy Raposa, the Town Finance Director, and Ron Tarro, the School Department Finance Director to discuss his ideas for the budget format. He received positive feedback from both. The committee agreed that this will be helpful. Geoff will contact both finance directors to follow up.

Request for Data. Chad distributed a list of data request items – primarily wage and benefit data with personal information redacted. Chad indicated that some of the items

were requested and provided for COA for the last budget cycle. This list contains items that are slightly more in depth and would provide good data for fiscal planning. Discussion ensued as to the best wording of the request. Geoff will submit the request to Peter DeAngelis.

Geoff reported on a recent meeting of the *Capitol Improvement Planning Committee* (CIP) which is a sub-group of the Planning Board. Geoff plans to invite the chair of CIP, Jean Robertson, to attend a COA meeting and explain reasoning of the CIP budget. Info should be available for 24 February meeting.

Capital Budget. Geoff discussed the inclusion of the Schools' request for capital expenditures into the Capital Budget, and how this was a departure from past practice.

Agenda for Next Meeting

Budget format; Anticipated FY2016 revenue; Capital budget

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m. by Geoffrey Grove. The next general meeting will be at 7:00 pm on February 24, 2015, in the Senior Center Activity Room.

Minutes submitted by: Ann Strong

Approved by: Geoffrey Grove