

# **Barrington Committee on Appropriations**

Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2015

## **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Barrington Committee on Appropriations was called to order at 7:03 pm on March 24, 2015 in the Barrington Senior Center by Geoff Grove.

## **Present**

In attendance: Geoff Grove, Chair; Peter Clifford, Chad Mollica, Peter Dennehy. Also present Peter DeAngelis, Town Manager; Kathy Raposa, Town Finance Director; Ann Strong, Town Council

## **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the February 24 and March 3 meetings were approved by unanimous vote of the members present, with no corrections or amendments.

## **Open Issues**

Peter C distributed a four-page document analyzing the municipal budget including the school budget from 2011 through 2016. Chad noted that the capital budget increased markedly 2014 – 2016. Peter DeAngelis explained that's because 2011-2013 are artificially low because of reimbursements due to storm damage.

Geoff asked about efforts to reduce the cost of benefits. Peter DeAngelis and Kathy explained that the town is a member of the West Bay Collaborative and that there has been significant savings in administrative charges per contract. The Town is self-insured and the plan is through the West Bay Collaborative via Blue Cross. A discussion ensued about examining the rates paid, the number of claims, what the marketplace offers and the potential trade-offs.

Peter C asked Peter DeAngelis about upcoming bond issues. Possible \$4.6 million for landfill closure requiring an additional \$3 million; library proposal for a \$2.5 million renovation project (the proposal will be reimbursed by the State library fund, which will not have an impact on local tax rate); there is also a possibility that there will be a request to fund an artificial turf field at the High School. Ann explained that a proposal was brought to the Town Council and the council referred it to School Committee, which subsequently voted against the project. Geoff indicated that he had been contacted by

this group. Peter DeAngelis suggested that it would be a good idea for the COA to hear the proposal.

Peter C asked for clarification on actual numbers that tie into the budget. Kathy showed him where the numbers tie together.

Chad asked how the town stands for this year's budget. Peter DeAngelis and Kathy said that even with the difficult winter that the budget will not be overspent.

Peter DeAngelis explained two items under the Fund Balance Transfer item in the Municipal Budget Highlights: Affordable Housing Trust Fund (\$750,000) request from the Housing Board, and the reimbursement of the Amey Tucker Spencer fund (\$285,742).

Geoff asked about the balance of the \$4 million road bond. Peter DeAngelis explained that he had spoken with Alan Corvi about that and there is about \$3 million left which he will use to repair and resurface including those damaged during this winter.

Kathy asked Geoff about a time frame for finalizing the budget so she can place the meeting notice in the paper. A discussion ensued about items left to review and how to prioritize time between now and due date. It was agreed that Appropriations will finalize the budget by Wednesday April, 29.

### **Agenda for Next Meeting**

The next meeting discussion will encompass all of the budgets: Municipal, School, and Capital.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm by Geoff Grove. The next general meeting will be at 7:00 pm on March 31, 2015, in the Barrington Senior Center.

Minutes submitted by: Ann Strong

Approved by: Geoff Grove