

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2011

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:05pm by Budget Committee Chairperson Mr. Vadenais.

ROLL CALL 7:00pm: Present were Mrs. Bartomioli, Mrs. Nadeau, Mr. Puccetti, Mr. Vadenais, Ms. Vallee

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES (WITH CHANGES AS NOTED) of the February 3rd and February 5th meetings was made by Ms. Bartomioli, seconded by Ms. Vallee and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. We each received a letter from Lisa Marcotte in response to a Budget Committee question posed during the meeting Saturday February 5th. The Budget Committee asked where the rate for employer contributions to retirement accounts comes from. After review of Ms. Marcotte's letter Mr. Vadenais stated that he would like a more clear answer. Additionally he would like to know how the rate of return is affected by communities which are not paying into the system. Mr. Vadenais will contact Ms. Marcotte.

2. Mr. Benoit is unable to meet with the Budget Committee on 2-17, Ms. Nadeau will ask Mr. Benoit to meet with us on March 3rd at

8:00pm. Ms. Nadeau will ask Mr. Nadeau if he can meet with us at 6:30pm on 3-3.

NEW BUSINESS:

Town Administrator Ms. Hamilton met with the Budget Committee to review her budget with the following discussion:

Ms. Hamilton noted that she has requested a 3% raise for town employees who haven't had a raise for some time. She noted that there is no salary increase for the Town Administrator. Ms. Hamilton noted that the town is losing an employee (Louise) who obtained a job elsewhere for \$7 per hour more than the town was paying her.

Q Ms. Bartomioli: Was there give and take in the Municipal Contract that was negotiated with Local 937 for 22 municipal employees?

A Ms. Hamilton: Yes. The deductible for health care was increased to \$250. The bottom line is that the town is losing people because we don't pay enough.

Q Ms. Bartomioli: Why is the town buyback for health insurance \$5,000 when teachers are at \$2,000?

A Ms. Hamilton stated that she would like to get rid of the buyback altogether.

Q Mr. Pucetti: What % do municipal employees contribute to their healthcare plans?

A Ms. Hamilton: Municipal employees pay 5%, up from 4%.

A Ms. Bartomioli: Teachers contribute 15% into their healthcare plans. There is \$79,000 of buybacks on the municipal side. After 5 years the municipal employee gets 71 sick days if they have never taken any!

A Mr. Vadenais stated that the municipal contract was not a good one.

Q Ms. Nadeau: How much input does the Town Administrator have on the contracts?

A Ms. Hamilton stated that she negotiates the contracts.

Q Mr. Vadenais: How many retired municipal employees get healthcare?

A Ms. Hamilton: 13.

Ms. Hamilton concluded by stating that she believes the north Smithfield budget is pretty bare bones. She believes that because of

the overall financial situation of the state that eventually the state will force communities to consolidate with one another. At the present time there are 60 municipal employees and 250 school department employees.

NEXT MEETING:

Saturday February 17th at 7:00pm.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52pm was made by Ms. Bartomioli, seconded by Ms. Vallee and unanimously approved.

**Minutes respectfully submitted,
Merrie Nadeau**