

Budget Committee  
September 10, 2018  
Meeting Minutes

**Present:**

Chair- Shaun Lagueux, Joe Caristi, Dave Carr, Scott Sanschagrín, Walter Waring, Les Dion, Janet Cavanagh, John Sellers, Bob Emerson, Betsy Schneider, Paul Simard.

**Absent:** Rob Glassett, Eric Rouille

**Others Present:** Nik Coates, Bob Blanchette, and Don Milibrand

**Call to Order:**

Committee Vice chair Shaun Lagueux called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:**

Shaun Lagueux asked the committee to review the minutes from the last meeting. Scott Sanschagrín made a motion to accept the minutes of May 14, 2018, seconded by Betsy Schneider. The committee voted **8 in favor – 0 abstained – 0 opposed** in favor of the motion.

**Correspondence:**

Shaun said that there were some papers to pass out for the people who take their books home.

**Old Business:**

Raymah Simpson wanted to clarify with the members that in March the committee will start with a clear slate. There will now be 7 positions on the committee instead of 13, two /1 year positions, two / 2 year positions, and two / 3 year positions the 7<sup>th</sup> position will a select board representative. Sean Lagueux said that any one that is on the current committee or anyone from the public can sign up. Raymah said that the signups would start in January and will be advertised.

**New Business:**

Nik Coates said that the warrant for the special town meeting has been submitted with a petition to the Grafton superior court for November 1<sup>st</sup> at the old town hall and we should be before the judge in the middle of October. We are going through the process on 9/28 we will post the public notice for the hearing for the bond and also post the public hearing notice for the budget committee. On 10/5 we will have the select board hearing however we will need to clarify the date for the special town meeting. The budget committee meeting will be October 9<sup>th</sup>. Nik also spoke about the new building cost being \$899,637.00 and with \$250,000.00 coming from the unassigned fund so the balance would be \$649,637.00. Bob Blanchette has done research on the schedule for debt. The building cost would be \$335,800.00 and the building improvements would be \$563,837.00. John Sellers requested copies of the rates for the bond. Betsy Schneider said she thought that it was an absurd amount of money for renovations especially since it was a functioning building with air conditioning and heat that are all working. Is there anything that can be saved? Paul Simard said that Article 16 was rescinded at the last town meeting by the voters referring to the \$95,000.00 and having it returned to the unreserved fund balance. He asked how much money had been spent and if they were working for free. Nik Coates said they were working pro bono. Paul also said we need to address the needs that we have which is a new Police Station not town offices. Shaun Lagueux reminded the members this is just a discussion tonight not a vote it is too premature for that right now. John Sellers asked what payments will be retired. Don Milibrand said that in 2018 was the last payment

for the sidewalk tractor which was \$27,467.00. In 2021 Engine 4 will be paid which is \$70,000.00, and in 2022 the last payment for the library addition will be paid which is \$90,000.00. John also asked what other projects will be coming up after the town hall it will be the police department and then the fire station. Betsy Schneider said she would hope that we let the public know what this will cost them. Paul Simard asked what Rayma Simpson had to say about the new building. Nik Coates said she was positive about it so far. Paul Simard then said Rayma was not for the project. John Sellers asked how much the taxes were on that building and if they pay full taxes. Nik Coates said about 9 or 10 thousand but they would have to look. Don Milibrand said that all of this is for discussion at the public hearing as the warrant can be amended.

**Member Comments:**

John Sellers thanked Bob Blanchette for the new excel spreadsheets which show year to year. Dave Carr said he would like to make a motion to meet every Monday at 6:30 to meet with the department heads and work the budget. Betsy Schneider seconded the motion. Dave Carr would like the finance officer and town administrator to attend these meetings. Walter Waring made an amendment to the motion to meet every other week, seconded by Bob Emerson the committee voted **8 in favor 3 opposed** the motion passed. Shaun Lagueux asked for another vote because one of the members didn't understand the motion. The committee voted **9 in favor and 2 opposed** the motion passed. Paul Simard spoke about the budget committee not being asked to attend the last select board meeting with the auditor. Les Dion said that the meeting was taped you can watch it on the website. She said the auditor was very pleased that the fund balance was in good shape. Shaun Lagueux said that he was very concerned about the solid waste project it was supposed to be done July 15<sup>th</sup>. He did request a 91A. It is about 60 days past that now and a \$500.00 per day assessment fee. My understanding is that the original concrete contractor was never contacted. I have a real concern that we are two months behind schedule and also concerns about the validity of the bid. Where do we go from here? How do we get back on track? Les Dion said she was not aware of this. Nik Coates said Shaun's statement was correct and that JP Morrison was looking at another concrete contractor to get back on track. He will keep the committee posted.

**Select Board Comments:**

There were no comments.

**Staff Comments:**

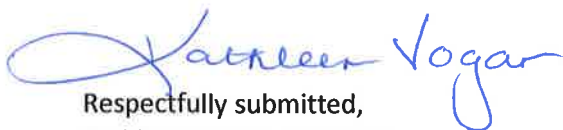
There were no comments.

**Public Comments:**

Don Milibrand said he thought the committee needed to put together a schedule and to set goals. That they need to make it clear for everyone.

**Adjournment:**

John Sellers motioned to adjourn, seconded by Scott Sanschagrin the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting ended at 7:30 pm.



Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Vogan, Secretary