



Town of Bristol
5 School Street
Bristol, NH 03222

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townofbristolnh.org
(603) 744-3354

Budget Committee
September 14th, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Chair Charles Therriault, Vice Chair Joe Caristi, Walter Waring, Janet Cavanagh, Paul Regan, and Select Board Representative Sean Lagueux.

Absent:

Sue Sodano

Call to Order:

Mr. Therriault called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Caristi corrected the name of a public member to Sellers. Motion to approve the amended February 9th minutes by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Caristi. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-1.

New Business:

The committee welcomed Mr. Lagueux, Select Board Rep. Mr. Lagueux had been a member of the budget committee for several years in the past, including Chair.

Mr. Waring nominated Mr. Therriault to retain his position as Chair, seconded by Mr. Caristi. Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0-0. Mrs. Cavanagh nominated Mr. Caristi to retain his position as Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Waring. Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0-0.

Mr. Therriault reminded the committee going forward that the main purpose of the Budget Committee is to craft a budget, presented at Town meeting for voters to vote on. Discussion followed regarding budget schedule dates and times, including joint meetings with the Select Board. Mr. Lagueux stated Mr. Milbrand, Select Board Chair, hopes that by having joint meetings, everyone will be on the same page and minimize confusion later in the budget process. Any questions for the Select Board can be asked during these meetings. Members discussed rescheduling November 23rd's meeting since it is so close to Thanksgiving. Mr. Therriault stated this topic would be revisited at the next meeting. No comments or questions regarding budgeting reports.

Correspondence:

None

Member Comments:

Mr. Regan asked if in the future, members would receive the spreadsheets with broken down figures from each department. Mr. Therriault stated those figures become more available at the end of the year/towards the end of the budget season.

Mrs. Cavanagh asked about past discussions regarding the Town's view of adhering to a fiscal year versus the current calendar year. Mr. Lagueux stated that the Select Board has not made any decisions to change the way the budget runs. It would be beneficial to go to a fiscal year, but the change would require a one-time budget for 18 months. The current calendar budget gets approved months after already spending what is in the budget. Fiscal year budgeting would be approved before spent. The



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current calendar year budget also sometimes requires that the Town would need to spend money on a TAN. Mr. Therriault stated that the hope last year would have been for the Charter to have passed as the budget schedule would have been a part of the Charter itself. Mr. Caristi stated that this would create less of a schedule during the holidays as well. Department heads need time to gather as much accurate budgeting figures as possible regardless of calendar or fiscal years.

Select Board/Staff Comments:

Mr. Lagueux stated that there are no major budgeting pressures and revenues are ahead of schedule. The Water and Sewer Department is ready to start the Solar Project at their plant. The Select Board is catching up on past items since COVID hit last year, addressing employee satisfactions and or complaints. The Fiber Project is a major event coming up with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The Town owns the project however leases out to other companies, including renting out office spaces. Rep. Ann Kuster and Senator Maggie Hassan have visited and fully supported the Town's Project. Highway has taken on a new midrange truck for plowing up hills that the other trucks have difficulty with. The Select Board is also renegotiating with the school district, plowing the high school in exchange for eliminating park fees due to liability complications.

Adjournment:

Motion by roll call vote to adjourn meeting at 6:50pm by Mr. Caristi, seconded by Mr. Regan. Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0-0.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, September 21st, 2021, at 6pm at the Town Office Meeting Room A
Topics: Budget Goals & Priorities

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Wharton