

Budget Committee (BC) Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2021

A. Call to Order

- Chairman Rich Weissgarber called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

B Pledge of Allegiance

- Chairman Rich Weissgarber led the Pledge of allegiance

C Attendance

Chairman Rich Weissgarber, Vice-Chair Bill Cole, Bob Guessferd, Shawn Murray, Ted Trost, Kathy Leary, Bob Clegg, School Board Liaison Diana La Mothe, Board of Selectman Liaison Brett Gagnon, Selectman David Morin, Finance Director Lisa Labrie, and Alejandro Urrutia.
Members not Present: Nichole De Jesus (excused)

D Public Input

- None

E Acceptance of Minutes

- Chairman Rich Weissgarber opened for a discussion of the minutes of April 7, 2021.
- In the draft minutes, Ms. La Mothe questioned the minutes, stating "SAU 81" through legal review and interpretation, challenged the post-SAU 81 Deliberative Session vote pertaining to WA1 (Alvirne High School Renovation). SAU states that due to no change occurring to WA1, the budget committee is not allowed to re-vote after the deliberative session. Ms. La Mothe indicated that the school board did not challenge the Budget Committee vote after the Deliberative Session. The intention was to initiate a conversation to be sure the law is followed, and the conversation continues to work together; Ms. La Mothe would like and the wording in the minutes to reflect what was stated in the meeting, which accurately described the intention school board.
- Ms. La Mothe Concurred with what the former chair Murray commented during the Budget Committee of April 7, 2021, and sought to clarify how the committee will proceed in the future and maybe incorporate it in the bylaws.
- Chairman Weissgarber suggested in the future to keep the minutes succinct to avoid misinterpretations leading to lengthy discussions about the minutes.
- Ms. La Mothe proposes to change the wording saying, " SAU 81 received legal counsel advice related to the post SAU deliberative session vote." Legal counsel raised a point that according to RSA 32:5 V, the Budget Committee can not change a recommendation unless there is an amendment at the deliberative session. The School Board voted to move forward with the last vote of 4-5 on the ballot.
- Chairman Rich Weissgarber made a motion to accept the change the wording suggested by Ms. La Mothe Mr. Urrutia second. Motion passed (8-2-0)

F Report from Liaisons

a. Select Board

- Selectman board liaison Mr. Gagnon yields the word to Selectman Morin, who reported future discussions about the default budget in a workshop, but there is no setup date yet.

b. School Board

- As requested by the budget committee to the school board, the actual to budget report was prepared year-to-date through April 12; moving forward, monthly financial reports

and quarterly transfer reports are reviewed at the School Board meetings prior to being sent to the Budget Committee. These reports are posted in the draft agenda packet on the SAU 81 website on Thursday or Friday before a School Board meeting. The Budget Committee will continue receiving the monthly statement.

G Acceptance of the resignation of Ms. Nichole De Jesus.

Mr. Clegg made the motion to accept Ms. Nichole's resignation, Mr. Guessferd second. Mr. Trost voted Nay The motion passed (9-1-0)

H For Year 22 Default Budget

- Finance Director Lisa Labrie indicated that Mr. Malizia, the town administrator, shifted some expenses and canceled others, as reflected on pages four and five of the report.
- Selectman Morin explained that in previous years with default budget, the first items cut were from Fire and Police Departments. Still, this time the board of selectmen is looking to cut first none essential expenses to minimize the impact in crucial services like Town Hall, Police, and Fire departments.
- The Board of Selectman will have a Default Budget workshop, as was indicated during the liaison report.
- The budget committee will not have laptops for the committee members to use during the meetings.
- Mr. Murray asks to have hard copy documents for those who do not have laptops or do not have access to a printer.
- Chairman Weissgarber will survey the committee members to see who will require hard copies of the documents to read during the meetings.

I Discussion on RSA 32:5 and future budget strategies.

- Chairman Weissgarber opened for discussion if we should aim at the state level to change the wording of RSA 32:5 to correct the vagueness of the language related to voting or concentrate on our bylaws. The chairman believes we should not go to the state level, and Mr. Murray concurs.
- Mr. Trost entertains the idea of work at the State level and in the bylaws. The budget committee is well-positioned to advise legislators around this issue that will undoubtedly affect other budget committees.
- Mr. Clegg and Mr. Guessferd support working to clarify RSA 32:5 at the state level next year since the possibility out of time now should concentrate on what we can do. If we can't change the law at the state level, we must follow the law to avoid any legal challenge.
- Vice-Chair Bill Cole made a motion to accept the nay laws as currently writing second by Mr. Guessferd. The motion pass 9-1-0

J Other Business

- There is a unanimous opinion to cancel the July meeting.
- We should expect to receive the deliberative schedule around October.
- Chairman Weissgarber remind the committee members of the invitation by the school on May 24 at 6:30 PM at the CTE.
- Next meeting June 2, 7:00 PM at the Community Center.
- Motion to adjourn by Chairman Weissgarber second by Mr. Urrutia. The motion passed 10-0-0

