

ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE

APRIL 28, 2017

Members Present: Ruell, Sivalingam, Badger, Stewart, Coleman, Hoerter, Lamos, Downing

The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. in the Ashland School Library.

Reorganization

On a motion by Hoerter, seconded by Coleman, it was voted to elect Jeanette Stewart as Chair.

On a motion by Lamos, seconded by Coleman, it was voted to elect David Ruell as Vice-Chair.

Stewart suggested alternating the position of Secretary. Hoerter and Coleman were willing to serve as Secretary for limited times. Downing reported that the recorder batteries were low, so Stewart will donate some. There was a discussion of erasing or downloading the old minutes from the recorder.

Meeting times and days

There was a lengthy discussion of the best times and days for meetings. Hoerter made a motion, seconded by Coleman, to start the meetings at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. That motion was replaced by another motion by Hoerter, seconded by Coleman, to start the meetings at 6 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m., which was so voted.

Paperwork from Departments

On a motion by Hoerter, seconded by Downing, it was voted that the paperwork for a department, such as that for the mid year review, be presented to the Committee five business days before the meeting at which it was to be discussed. Coleman suggested establishing a schedule for the mid year reviews six weeks to two months beforehand, which would go to the Town Administrator and the department heads. Coleman also suggested developing a format for the department heads, so that they would know what the Budget Committee expected of them.

Agendas

Stewart will prepare agendas for future meetings.

SAU Withdrawal Study Committee

On a motion by Downing, seconded by Lamos, it was voted to appoint Stewart as the Budget Committee representative to the SAU Withdrawal Study Committee.

Raises

The raises given by the Selectmen to some town employees not covered by contracts were discussed. Lamos explained that the Selectmen were looking at various budget items in the default budget, but had not yet decided where the money for the raises would be coming from. He will inform the Budget Committee of that decision when it is made.

Town Office inquiries

Coleman suggested that only the Chair and Vice-Chair ask questions at the Town Office on behalf of the Budget Committee.

Other items discussed included the small print on the latest town expenditure report and the campground electricity account line.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

David Ruell