

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
August 4, 2009
MINUTES**

Call to Order

6:00 pm: Chairman~ James Spillane called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Spillane asked all to rise and pledge allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

James Spillane~ Chairman, Don Daley~ Vice Chairman, Liz Murphy, Tom Dillon, Harriet Cady, Greg Williams~ School Board Representative and Stephen Barry~ Board of Selectmen Representative.

Members Absent:

Kevin Briggs, Peter Menard and Richard Pitman.

Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Spillane readdressed the minutes of January 14, 2009 and April 15, 2009.

MOTION: Vice Chairman, Don Daley made a Motion to accept the minutes of January 14, 2009.

SECONDED: Board of Selectmen Representative, Stephen Barry seconded the Motion.

Tom Dillon and Harriet Cady chose to abstain as they were not on the Committee at the time.

VOTE: With no further discussion, Chairman Spillane took a vote to approve the Minutes of January 14, 2009 as written.
Five in favor and two abstentions.

Chairman Spillane called for any discussion on the minutes of April 15, 2009. Liz Murphy and Greg Williams opted to abstain.

MOTION: Vice Chairman, Don Daley made a Motion to approve the Minutes of April 15, 2009 as written.

SECONDED: Board of Selectmen Representative, Stephen Barry seconded the Motion.

VOTE: With no further discussion, Chairman Spillane took a vote to approve the Minutes of April 15, 2009.
Five in favor and two abstentions.

Citizens Comments

There were no citizen's comments.

Acceptance of Resignation:

Chairman Spillane reviewed the resignation letter from Lorena Sinnamon. He again wished her the best and asked for a motion to accept her resignation.

MOTION: Board of Selectmen Representative, Stephen Barry made a Motion to accept her resignation.

SECONDED: Liz Murphy seconded the Motion.

VOTE: With no further discussion, Chairman Spillane took a vote to approve the Minutes of April 15, 2009.
All in favor.

Appointment of Member

Chairman Spillane asked for comments from prospective appointees to replace Lorena. He advised the Committee that Bill Carbonneau was unable to make it due to being out of town. Chairman Spillane moved on to the appointment of the member to fill the slot for Lorena.

MOTION: Board of Selectmen Representative, Stephen Barry made a Motion to accept Bill Carbonneau as a member.

SECONDED: Liz Murphy seconded the Motion.

VOTE: Chairman Spillane made note that her resignation letter specifically stated that she'd like for Bill Carbonneau to step into her position because he expressed interest in serving. With no further discussion, Chairman Spillane took a vote to approve Bill Carbonneau as a member.

All in favor.

Update on Budget Schedules from Board of Selectman:

Chairman Spillane asked for discussion on the Board of Selectman's Budget update. Board of Selectman Chairman, Stephen Barry stated that the Selectman's Budget will be available on December 1, 2009 and they are currently working towards that goal. He also made note of the budget that is going on in the State House that has given the schools plenty of aid and the towns have taken a big hit. They are expecting that Deerfield's revenue will be down shortly.

Harriet Cady asked what the incurred cost would be for not budgeting for retirement. There was no discussion.

Chairman Spillane asked for comments on the information now given from the Board of Selectman. Vice Chairman, Don Daley wanted to confirm the earlier deadline and Board of Selectman Chairman, Stephen Barry stated that this year the Board of Selectman will be unable to meet that deadline. Harriet Cady asked if the Board would be able to provide the Committee with partial budgets as they are completed so that the Committee could get things out of the way. Board of Selectman Chairman, Stephen Barry stated that by coming to the Board of Selectman meetings that process could easily be handled, however, the Board as a whole does not want to present its budget until it is finalized on December 1, 2009.

Liz Murphy agrees that could be an issue and noted that she'd rather see the Committee meet one time as a whole to go through the whole budget to get a better perspective. Chairman Spillane stated that the way it was discussed before seemed like a good plan on how to address both budgets and the only thing that seems to have changed on that is the date that the Committee can get the budget. Chairman Spillane further noted that with the fiscal problems this year is bringing everyone, it is understandable that it is hard to pull a budget together. Chairman Spillane asked if this would shift any of the dates. Vice Chairman, Don Daley stated that it should not be an issue and that the meeting scheduled for December 1, 2009 would be a work session to see the budget.

Harriet Cady asked to confirm if the Committee just has four weeks to gather up questions. Board of Selectman Chairman, Stephen Barry replied that the Committee has the Saturday meeting scheduled on December 12, 2009 where all the department heads will be available to answer all those questions.

Tom Dillon asked if the Committee would get copies of the materials to be reviewed that night during the Selectman's meeting, as it hard to sit in the audience and follow along without the paperwork. Board of Selectman Chairman, Stephen Barry believes the materials will be provided.

Chairman Spillane asked for any further comments or questions. Without further discussion he moved onto the School Board's updates.

Update on Budget Schedules from School Board Reps:

Chairman Spillane called for comments from School Board Representative, Greg Williams and he stated that as far as he knew on the budget for the school, that the school will be giving back to the town an excess of \$150,000 this year, which ended in June. Greg Williams also stated that the budget was approved and everything is in line as far as teachers and staff. He stated that they will be functioning within the approved default budget and it was recalled at around \$35,000 that was needed to re-cut. He stated that with the moneys coming back, the School Board is in good shape to give some back. He mentioned that as far as target, that much like the Board of Selectman and as time wise goes it will be difficult, but the School Board is shooting for first week of December to

have their budget completed. He further stated that the issue having to do with their fiscal year and the fiscal year for the town being two different fiscal years, they are trying to project into the future, but being half way through the year is a little difficult.

Chairman Spillane asked if the School Board has given the SAU an update, as they prepare things before the School Board gets it. Greg Williams replied that their goal is to get it to the School Board by early November and their target is the first week of December.

Chairman Spillane asked the School Board representative if he knew if the Peter's are attending our session for the school review of the budget. Vice Chairman, Don Daley added that it is split into two sessions; Tuesday night, December 15, 2009 and Tuesday night, January 5, 2010.

School Board Representative, Greg Williams mentioned that they met with the Concord School Board and will have ongoing meetings with them. He advised the Committee that they asked for some accountability and wanted to know where our children are going when they graduate. He advised that they have a lot of this information, but do not have a system in place to get this information out. The School Board is doing a lot of web based planning and can go online to pull information. He mentioned that the Board asked them if Deerfield has kids that moved out of town, how do they know they are not still paying for them. He stated that they claimed they would know.

Chairman Spillane asked the School Board Representative if he knew if there was going to be a raise in the tuition this year and what are his thoughts of the school being able to come back without asking for more money. Greg Williams replied that the tuition would be raised and that he thinks they are getting more money.

Liz Murphy asked when did the School Board meet on budget issues so that she could attend and try to get a drift of what is going on. School Board Representative, Greg Williams replied that the Board will meet tomorrow night and will be addressing the contractual relationship with Concord and the Board will meet once a month.

Tom Dillon asked how many students the Board is projecting for Kindergarten through 8th grade this coming year. Greg Williams replied that it would be somewhere around 500 (give or take).

Harriet Cady asked if the School Board gotten a figure on the stimulus funds coming in. School Board Representative, Greg Williams replied that the School Board does not specifically. He mentioned that the SAU has an initial first roll out, but it has not been rolled out to the schools yet. He noted that the SAU has seen preliminary numbers of the first roll out that is to be coming. He further noted that due to our math scores failing this year, they are concentrating on building up our math curriculum and have hired some consultants the SAU are going to be bringing into the areas of math.

Harriet Cady noted that she went to the State's website for the Department of Education and it showed the applications by various towns. It showed that Deerfield applied under Title One but had not applied for the I.D.E.A. program that was for quite a bit of money and the handicap education that the Town gets many complaints of not getting money for. She questioned why Deerfield had not applied for it, as there is \$39,000 coming into the town for the Title One part of it according to the State Website. Harriet stated that she was shocked that Deerfield had not applied, but had joined a lawsuit for more funding under it. She requested a report from the School Board to the Municipal Budget Committee on what applications were made for stimulus funds and what is expected to be coming in.

Chairman Spillane asked for any further questions for the School Board. No further comments were made.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Peter Menard asked for a quorum to be defined. Harriet Cady mentioned that she talked to the attorney at the local government center. She noted that the Selectman had already asked for their opinion and they had given them one under RSA-91A, which said that a quorum is one more than half the Committee. She further stated that she spoke to Christine regarding that under the law the Committees can set their own quorum; in other words, they can say a quorum will be whatever is present. She stated that Christine said this was interesting concept, as it is true that Committees can set their own quorum. She further mentioned that under

the Right to Know law (which she served on this Commission when it was written), it says the "majority" of the members and she would prefer to stay with that definition.

Chairman Spillane thanked the Board of Selectman for bringing this to they're attention. He further stated that the Municipal Committee was determining the law to the best of their ability at the time, as they are supposed to do. He added that Lorena's resignation letter said it was "effective immediately", and not knowing whether the "majority" was based on the number of sitting board members currently or the number of board members that they are supposed to have (including vacancies), or whether that quorum was fifty percent or one more than fifty percent, the Committee did they're best to interpret it.

Board of Selectmen Representative, Stephen Barry stated that the Board was in no way questioning the Municipal Budget Committee's decision. Based on the information given to the Board, they were suggesting to the Committee that it was the Board's understanding that a quorum for the Municipal Budget Committee would be six. He referred to the newspaper in the last few days, mentioned the Manchester Alderman had the same situation; they were down an alderman and it takes "x" amount to override the Mayor. He further mentioned that there was a discussion on whether that number would be reduced and they were told by the City Clerk that it was the majority of the members elected, not the ones sitting.

Chairman Spillane stated that the Committee will choose six as their quorum number to make it 50% plus one.

Vice Chairman, Don Daley mentioned that the Committee has not heard from Kevin Briggs for a while and mentioned that maybe a reminder letter should be sent to him. Chairman Spillane agreed to make a phone call first.

Vice Chairman, Don Daley noted that the next scheduled meeting for September 15th may need to be re-evaluated since the Committee is not cutting anything on the budgets. Chairman Spillane suggested to keep it on calendar as an "as needed", unless the Committee hears otherwise.

Citizens Comments

There were no citizen's comments.

Adjournment

6:21 pm

MOTION: Board of Selectmen Representative, Stephen Barry motioned to adjourn.

SECONDED: Liz Murphy seconded the motion.

VOTE: Chairman Spillane called for the vote.

All in Favor