

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
April 19, 2011
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.

Roll Call:

Present:

James Spillane, Chairman; Don Daley, Vice-Chairman; Kevin Chalbeck, Tom Dillon, Fred McGarry, Dick Pitman, Committee Members; Maryann Clark, School Board Representative, Steve Barry, Selectmen Representative; Kevin Verville, Committee candidate

Members Absent:

Harriet Cady and Liz Murphy; Committee Members

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Spillane said that he was just made aware that the MBC no longer had a recording secretary, who would normally bring copies of the minutes from the previous meeting. Approval of those minutes would have to wait until the next meeting. Mr. Daley volunteered to take the minutes of this meeting.

Old Business

Mr. Dillon asked about the teachers' contract that was passed in March. There was an open discussion about the total cost and specific costs within the contract. Ms. Clark said she believed the contract takes effect on July 1 and that she would respond to the Committee with specific numbers. Mr. Chalbeck asked when the town knows the final numbers in the town budget and about the budget figures we were seeing on the 2010 town budget at MBC meetings in January. Mr. Barry responded that final budget numbers are usually in by end of January to early February and that information can be sent to the whole committee.

Election of Officers

Chairman Spillane asked for nominations for officers:

Motion: Mr. Spillane made a motion for Don Daley as chairman.

Seconded by Mr. Barry.

VOTE: Chairman Spillane called for the vote. All voted in Favor.

New Chairman Daley thanked the Committee for the vote. Mr. Pitman welcomed Mr. McGarry to the MBC. Chairman Daley congratulated Mr. Pitman and Ms. Murphy on their reelection.

Chairman Daley asked for nominations for vice-chairman:

Motion: Richard Pitman made a motion for Tom Dillon as vice-chairman.

Seconded by Mr. Barry.

Mr. Dillon stated that he would not have the time necessary to serve as vice-chairman. The motion was withdrawn by Mr. Barry and Mr. Pitman.

Motion: Tom Dillon made a motion for James Spillane as vice-chairman.
Seconded by Mr. Daley
VOTE: Chairman Daley called for the vote. All voted in Favor

Vice-chairman Spillane asked who would be responsible for printing e-mail correspondence. Chairman Daley said he would be willing to continue printing the correspondence but requested that e-mails are as limited as possible.

Discussion with MBC Candidates

Chairman Daley said that due to former committee member Peter Menard's election to the school board there was a vacancy on the committee. He said the vacancy had been posted on the town website and three people had expressed interest, Tom Bibeau, Gerry Purdy and Kevin Verville. Chairman Daley recognized Mr. Verville as the only candidate in attendance. Mr. Verville made some brief comments about his interest in serving on the MBC. Committee members asked Mr. Verville several questions about his ability to attend meetings, experience with a budgeting process and current employment.

Nominations and Voting of Appointment

Motion: Dick Pitman made a motion for Kevin Verville to fill the vacancy on the MBC.
Seconded by Mr. Barry
VOTE: Chairman Daley called for the vote. All voted in Favor.

2011 Agenda

Chairman Daley went over a proposed meeting schedule for 2011-2012. Ms. Clark requested that a proposed meeting for June 7, 2011 to review the school budget be cancelled. All agreed. There was open discussion. All agreed to the following schedule:

Tuesday October 25, 2011	Review of current town and school budgets
Tuesday November 29, 2011	Receive 2012 Town Budget
Tuesday December 6, 2011	Discussion of 2012 Town Budget
Saturday December 10, 2011	Work Session – 2012 Town Budget and Warrant Articles
Tuesday December 13, 2011	Receive 2012-13 School Budget/Follow up on town budget
Tuesday January 3, 2012	Discussion of 2012-13 School Budget
Saturday January 7, 2012	Work Session – 2012-13 School Budget and Warrant Articles
Tuesday January 10, 2012	Follow up on school budget
Wednesday January 11, 2012	MBC Public Hearing for Town/School Budgets and Warrant Articles Followed by MBC Regular Meeting for Final Votes/Recommendations (Snow days for public hearing: Jan 12 and Jan 17)

Tuesday meetings start at 6pm. Saturday meetings start at 9am. (Held at Selectmen's meeting room.)
Public Hearing starts at 6:30pm. (Held at Town Hall)

New Business

Ms. Clark spoke about the budget at the state level. She stated that based on the Governor's budget the school board was estimating \$350,000 less from the state for 2011-12. She said that the school board was estimating a \$398,000 surplus in the 2010-11 school budget that could be used to cover less state aid. She also stated there could be \$155,000 less aid toward retirement contributions and that most of that amount would have to be found in the 2011-12 school budget.

Ms. Clark said she is continuing to work on putting together a comparative cost analysis – comparing our school costs with other similar towns. She will be meeting with the SAU and principal to put that together. Mr. Chalbeck suggested including a comparison of workforce in the analysis.

Mr. Barry said in his personal opinion, and not necessarily the view of the Board of Selectmen, even though the approved town budget was below the default budget taxes will likely go up due to state issues. The town may not have the reserve funds to offset taxes.

Mr. Chalbeck asked about rumors regarding purchasing new fire equipment. It was suggested that the fire chief could come in to give a presentation at the November 29 MBC meeting.

Mr. McGarry, who is also chairman of the Planning Board, stated that the Town Planner is currently updating the capital improvement plan.

Mr. Barry said there may be repair issues associated with the water system of the GBW building.

There was general discussion about recent bids and costs related to the Highway Department. Mr. Barry said about 75% of the plowing budget has already been spent. It is usually only about 60% at this time of year.

Citizens Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Adjournment

7:00pm

Motion: Dick Pitman made a motion to adjourn.

Seconded by Mr. Dillon

VOTE: Chairman Daley called for the vote. All in Favor