

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD, NH
EMERGENCY MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE**

George B. White Building
8 Raymond Rd. Deerfield, NH 03037

**February 15, 2022 6:00 PM
Meeting Minutes - Draft**

Meeting called to order by Chair at 6:15 PM

Roll Call: In Attendance - Bonnie Beaubien, Phil Bilodeau, Zach Langlois, Maureen Quinn, Bill von Hassel, Chair, JoAnne Bradbury Vice Chair, Joshua Cresswell, Terry Roy
Absent - Alden Dill, Jocelyn Messier, Kevin Verville.
Also in attendance: Kelly Roberts, Deerfield Town Clerk

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes:

Ms Bradbury, Vice Chair pointed out that it appears the MBC approved the Minutes of the recent MBC January 12, 2022 public hearing but did not approve the MBC minutes from the MBC business meeting of the same date. Mr. Langlois made a motion to approve the minutes of the MBC business meeting, motion was seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous.
Motion passed.

Motion to approve the February 1, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion made by Mr. Langlois, seconded by Mr. Roy, vote was unanimous. **Motion passed**

New Business:

Mr. von Hassel stated the reason for this emergency meeting was because of a change to the dollar amount in School Warrant Article #4 at the recent School deliberative session from the original amount of \$400,000 (Four Hundred Thousand Dollars to \$1,000,000 (One Million Dollars). Due to this change the MBC was obligated to reconvene, review, and re-vote on the amended amount. However, due to ballot printing deadlines, this was the most expedient day to meet.

The chair read the following into the record:

91-A: 2 Meetings Open to Public:

(b) Except in an emergency, a quorum of the public body shall be physically present at the location specified in the meeting notice as the location of the meeting. For purposes of this subparagraph, an "emergency" means that immediate action is imperative and the physical presence of a quorum is not reasonably practical within the period of time requiring action. The determination that an emergency exists shall be made by the chairman or presiding officer of the public body, and the facts upon which that determination is based shall be included in the minutes of the meeting.

Taken from the RTK Manual:

4. Exception to Strict Notice Requirements: An Emergency: There is one important exception to the general notice requirement. If there is an emergency, defined as a "situation where immediate and undelayed action is deemed to be imperative by the chairman or presiding officer of the public body," a meeting may be held with less than 24 hours' notice. The chair or presiding officer is required to post a notice of the time and place of the meeting as soon as practicable, and "shall employ whatever further means are reasonably available to inform the public that a meeting is to be held." The nature of the emergency must be stated clearly in the minutes of the meeting (and minutes are, of course, required). All of these requirements are found in RSA 91-A:2, II. This portion of RSA 91-A does not override other statutory or local notice requirements.

The vice-chair then read the following additional information into the record:

RSA:32-5 (b) If the article is amended at the first session of the meeting in an official ballot referendum municipality, the governing body and the budget committee, if one exists, may revise its recommendation on the amended version of the special warrant article and the revised recommendation shall appear on the ballot for the second session of the meeting provided, however, that the 10 percent limitation on expenditures provided for in RSA 32:18 shall be calculated based upon the initial recommendations of the budget committee;

Based on these two NH RSA statutes, and consultation with legal council, the chair felt that an emergency meeting of the MBC, and an exemption of the 91-A notice requirement, was justified.

Motion to reconsider School warrant article #4.

It was moved and seconded to reopen discussion of the amended warrant article amount in School Warrant article #4. There was a discussion by the members about several aspects of the increase from the original amount of \$400,000 (Four Hundred Thousand Dollars to \$1,000,000 (One Million Dollars). Mr. Langois was asked his opinion on the increase and he stated that, although he did not speak for the School Board, his personal opinion was that he'd rather see the money allocated differently. Additional discussion was had by the members about how a portion of the \$1,000,000 (One Million Dollars) would now be coming from taxation. The original warrant article stated that all the funds would be coming from surplus at the end of the school fiscal year with no amount derived from taxation. The new wording of the warrant article now stated that some amount would come from surplus, with the remaining amount to be raised through taxation. A member asked about whether or not the School had the surplus and the amount of the surplus. Mr. Langlois stated that it was impossible to tell what the surplus would be until the school fiscal year gets closer and they are better able to refine their budget line items. Mr. Roy made the comment that he felt the tax impact number should be included on the ballot, but because a surplus dollar amount could not be identified at this time, identifying the tax impact would be difficult to identify and a best guess. Some rough calculations were made, and it was determined that the possible tax impact could be \$1.28 per thousand of property value. It was moved and seconded to recommend MBC approval of amended School Warrant Article #4.

Final vote 5-3-0 Motion **passed**.

A brief second discussion was held regarding the changed language in School Warrant Article #2. It was determined during discussions by the members, that the MBC did not need to take action on this language change.

A brief discussion took place about the MBC attending both the Town and School deliberative sessions in the future and having a MBC business meeting right after both sessions to review and re-vote on any amendments to Warrant Articles requiring MBC recommendation.

Motion to adjourn, Unanimous approval by the members.

Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 6:50 PM.

Next MBC meeting will be the organizational meeting on March 15, 2022

Minutes pending approval by the Municipal Budget Committee