

TOWN OF DEERFIELD, NH
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
George B. White Building
8 Raymond Rd. Deerfield, NH 03037

November 9, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Called to Order at 6:02 PM by Mr. Von Hassel

Roll Call: In Attendance - Bill Von Hassel, Bonnie Beaubien, Jocelyn Messier, Alden Dill, Phil Bilodeau, Joshua Cresswell, Zach Langlois, Maureen Quinn, Terry Roy
Absent - Kevin Verville, JoAnne Bradbury (both excused)

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Motion by Mr. Cresswell to approve last week's minutes as written. Seconded by Ms. Quinn. Vote to approve minutes as written was unanimous.

Old Business: Mr. Dill provided documentation requested at last week's meeting to Terry Roy. Mr. Von Hassel apologized for failure to video and audio record last week's meeting.

New Business:

Budget Presentation/Review: Mr. Von Hassel stated that the town budget is still draft as the select board has not yet voted on it, and as such, the MBC can only discuss but cannot vote on it until the select board has done so. Motion by Mr. Langlois to table discussion of the town budget until next week. Seconded by Mr. Von Hassel. Vote to table discussion of the town budget to next week was unanimous.

Mr. Langlois stated that the school board has an early draft of the budget and he will continue to update as updates are available. Mr. Langlois also provided an explanation of the surplus, as requested at last week's meeting. The surplus was explained as follows:

\$ 77,000	High School Tuition
\$153,000	Para Salaries
\$ 66,000	Special Ed Salaries
\$308,000	Special Ed Placement
\$ 17,000	Co-Curriculars
\$ 32,000	Courses & Workshops
\$ 62,000	Custodial Salaries
\$ 20,000	Utilities
\$209,000	Regular Transportation
\$ 38,000	Special Ed Transportation
\$227,000	Fringe Benefits

The surplus, per Mr. Langlois, was unusual due to COVID-19 and the school being closed for a length of time unexpectedly.

There was discussion about the efficiency of the process for reviewing and voting on the town budget. Mr. Von Hassel stated that he reached out to legal and they can request but cannot require any department heads to be present for questions at MBC meetings. Mr. Dill will be presenting the town budget as the representative for the selectboard and will answer any questions from the MBC. Mr. Von Hassel and Mr. Roy both expressed that the MBC is not an advisory board, but rather a statutory one. Mr. Von Hassel said MBC has a responsibility to not just “rubber stamp” budgets.

Citizens Comments: Jane Miller spoke to the fact that the library director has resigned and she felt it was important to appear and support the library budget. Mr. Von Hassel apologized that the discussion regarding the library budget would not be happening tonight.

Mr. Von Hassel reviewed a request from an MBC member to have either the Chair, Vice-Chair, or another member of the MBC be responsible for ensuring video & audio recording occurs at future meetings. Mr. Von Hassel made a motion to nominate Mr. Verville to be responsible for doing this. Motion was seconded by Mr. Langlois. Discussion was had that it was not fair to appoint a member who isn't present. Mr. Von Hassel withdrew his motion, to be discussed at the next meeting Mr. Verville is present for, as it was his idea to appoint a member to be responsible for this.

There was discussion by several MBC members regarding the conduct of members of the MBC on social media. Mr. Langlois asked the Chair to ask members to maintain a certain level of decorum when voicing opinions on social media. Ms. Messier said it is unprofessional and small minded to discuss other members of the committee on social media. Mr. Roy stated that members have the First Amendment right to say whatever they'd like. Mr. Von Hassel agreed that members do have that right but also agreed that members should be respectful of each other on social media.

Motion to Adjourn by Mr. Dill at 7:01 PM, seconded by Mr. Von Hassel. Vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM by Chair.

These minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by
Tina St. Peter, Recording Secretary