

Budget Committee Minutes

5:00pm Wednesday, April 25th, 2018, Vinalhaven Town Office

Present—Andy Dorr, Margaret Qualey, Lucy McCarthy, Bill Alcorn, Janann Sherman, Holly Sault, Eric Davis, Gabe McPhail

Minutes—All voted in favor of accepting the April 4th meeting minutes.

Discussion— Andy updated the committee on the School Budget. There was a brief discussion about the Special Education line increase to meet current state requirements and student needs in the future.

Lucy asked if there was a discrepancy between the Budget Committee's budget recommendations and the Select Board's budget. Andy explained that all amounts were the same. The Select Board agreed to the Budget Committee's requests for retaining money in the parks reserve account and for the creation of reserve funds for certain town buildings.

Lucy asked for an update on the PW building. Andy explained the town was looking at property at Loud's Pit. There was a brief discussion about residential commercial zoning vs. variances. If there is a PW building project, the town would plan to fund by bond. Lucy asked if there was any money put aside now for the project. Andy said no, but that it was an option for the committee to recommend in next year's budget.

The group discussed budget meeting scheduling for the 2019-20 budget. Gabe proposed a sequential schedule where department requests would be submitted earlier and Andy would send sections to the committee a week or so prior to meetings. The Budget Committee would get then get their recommendations/meeting minutes to the Select Board a week or so prior to THEIR meetings. Margaret spoke about long and short term planning and her interest in seeing coordinated department goals and projects. There was a discussion about aligning capital projects under a capital improvement plan—a goal of Andy's—starting with immediate PW projects and capital improvements—infrastructure and equipment. The Comp Plan was mentioned as the town's platform for all longer-term goals/vision.

Lucy asked: What is the most useful thing for the budget committee to do and help with? Andy suggested helping with the capital improvement plan; the budget committee could assist Andy's work in developing the plan. There was a discussion about sidewalks and reserve funds. The capital improvement plan would be a great opportunity to engage the public. Regarding engagement, Andy mentioned that roads might be a good place to start. There was a discussion about roads and owning town equipment to work on roads.

Next steps— The committee will meet in the fall to talk about the 2019 Budget schedule. Bill would like to make the process more efficient—if there is a no significant change in amounts, then we don't need to discuss—just talk about major changes. Margaret had a concern that for new members this might deter people from asking questions. Eric agreed. Margaret asked about where and when it is appropriate to talk about revenue? Mooring fees were discussed.

Holly left 5:53 pm

Agenda for next meeting— Bill and Andy will call a meeting in mid-October. The committee will discuss the 2019-20 budget schedule and how the committee can be helpful to the Capital Improvement Plan.

Adjourn— Eric made a motion to adjourn. Margaret seconded. All voted in favor. Adjourned at 6:06 pm.