

Budget Committee Minutes

5:00pm Tuesday, October 30th, 2018, Vinalhaven Town Office

Present- Andy Dorr, Tanya Robishaw, Margaret Qualey, Bill Alcorn, Eric Davis, Gabe McPhail, Anne Farley, Lucy McCarthy (5:14PM), Janann Sherman and Holly Sault absent.

Section Review & Discussion

Discussion was opened with Gabe mentioning she is no longer on the committee due to her new role as a town employee. In turn Bill stated he would like to discuss a new chair for himself, but suggested waiting until all members were present. He said he would hold his position until all members are able to attend and make a decision.

Bill moved on with the agenda.

There was discussion on making meetings more effective and efficient. Tentative goal being less meetings-more accomplished. Set a schedule, get more organized, and focus on more big ticket items. No more line by line approach.

It was suggested by Gabe that a schedule be in place for when the department would have pieces in.

Bill referenced St George as having rather impressive timing in place. Which Margaret added that it was not new to them, so not unexpected.

Anne added the mainland can get more accomplished with longer meetings.

Gabe would like to see a more efficient process unlike last year, which seemed to be redundant. There seemed to be problems with communication between the Select Board and Budget Committee with relaying information.

Having more preparation for the Select Board was discussed. If there was more preparation ahead of time, and goals set and met, may help with the final steps.

Bill noted few people turn out to meetings. More community involvement is desired.

Andy mentioned there was more than in the past two years, but more advertising and engagement is a goal of the board.

There was discussion on ways to help Andy meet times, and what can be done to move things along in a more timely fashion. The earlier the better would work best. More direct information with strategic planning was suggested. Try a 3 year, 5 year, and 10 year goal, while not focusing

on line to line. The committee agreed that this was a good approach; with willingness to help where, and if, needed.

Bill agreed that it seemed to be a lot of meeting time, more than needed, lacking organization. It was agreed that there needs to be a better system. It was suggested that there be two phases to work on; one the capital projects, and the other the more detailed items.

Eric noted that there should be more discussion on budget information and less on policy, allowing more to be accomplished in meetings.

There was discussion and agreement more on topic information covered at meetings would cut down on meet time, allowing more productivity.

Lucy inquired if there is a list of items that need to be addressed; public works, bridge plan, etc.

Eric stated upcoming projects, and the concern of the mess it may be accompanied with. Main Street in particular.

Andy added the water mains are aged around the year 1910 or 1912, road resurfacing, sidewalks replaced while the project already has things dug up, catch basin, and gout banks are some areas that will be involved in the project. Outlining capital needs by mid- November, and come back in December was suggested.

Ideas for streamlining the process and a better approach with the Board of Selectmen was discussed. It was suggested that it could be beneficial having a committee member attend Selectmen meetings; can be a different member each time.

Donations were discussed, and the fact that there needs to be a policy for donations to help prevent money given without knowledge of who or why we are donating. The committee discussed a cap on donations, and requiring a written request or application for donations. A coherent policy for donations was suggested.

Goals for next meeting were discussed with Andy stating he would aim to have a capital improvement plan available. One more meeting after Thanksgiving to allow the committee to ensure a plan is in place to move forward with: schedule in place, capital improvement plan, and see where everyone is at.

Agenda for next meeting

Next meeting will be held November 26th at 5:00pm. Meeting will focus on donations policy, capital improvements list, and schedule/timeline.

Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 6PM