

Town of Readfield, Maine

Budget Committee

November 29, 2017

Minutes of Meeting

The Budget Committee of the Town of Readfield held a regularly scheduled meeting on November 29, 2017 at Giles Hall. Members in attendance included Andy Tolman, Pete Davis, Val Pomerleau, Marty Hannish and Ellen Schneider. Eric Dyer, Town Manager, was also in attendance.

Tolman called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 pm. The first order of business was the election of Committee officers.

Davis moved and Hannish seconded a motion to name Andy Tolman as Committee Chair.

Tolman moved and Hannish seconded a motion to name Pete Davis as Committee Co-Chair.

Pomerleau moved and Hannish seconded a motion to name Ellen Schneider as Committee Secretary.

The three motions were taken together on a single vote and approved unanimously.

The second order of business was consideration of the Committee meeting schedule. Mr. Dyer had provided the Committee with a preliminary schedule for the budget process, but noted that it needed to be revised, as the schedule contemplated Monday evening meetings, which posed a conflict for one of the Committee members. The group identified Thursday evenings as the best alternative for a regular meeting day. The revised schedule for subsequent meetings is as follows:

- January 4, 2018
- January 18, 2018
- February 15, 2018
- March 15, 2018
- March 29, 2018 – note: this is to be a joint meeting with the Select Board so the date needs to be confirmed with the Select Persons
- April 12, 2018
- April 19, 2018 – note: this is to be a joint meeting with the Select Board so the date needs to be confirmed with the Select Persons

The preliminary schedule also included a special joint meeting with the Select Board on December 4, 2017 to discuss a draft Capital Investment Plan. However, the draft Plan will not be ready for review by that date. The meeting will have to be rescheduled, likely for a date in early 2018.

The third order of business was the introduction of a proposed project for the installation of solar panels by ReVision Energy. The proposal, which lays out alternative paths for implementation of the project with regard to ownership and financing of the infrastructure, had been prepared by ReVision at the request of the Select Board. The Select Board is now seeking feedback and input from the Budget Committee regarding the proposal and options for financing and implementation, as the project holds implications for the capital budget and for on-going utility costs. The Committee expressed interest in hearing a presentation of the proposal from ReVision Energy, to clarify information included in the

written proposal. Mr. Dyer agreed to work on setting up that type of meeting opportunity, in conjunction with the Select Board.

The fourth order of business was a review of the goals for the budget process laid out for the most recent budget cycle. Members generally felt that the FY18 goals remained relevant and appropriate. There is interest in potentially adding goals in response to public input gathered at budget hearing meetings held in 2017, to improve the process and incorporate public suggestions into the new cycle. There is also some interest in adding a goal centered on the development of a long range planning cycle for investments in capital and roads, to act as guideposts and priorities for future budget cycles.

The discussion then turned to potential considerations for the FY19 budget. A question regarding the remaining term of the Town's required support of FirstPark was raised; Mr. Dyer noted that he thought that that term would soon be over, but not in FY19. He also reported on a recent meeting between Readfield and Winthrop officials regarding the Maranacook Lake Outlet Dam project. Both towns have agreed to move forward the process to gain voter approval of the project and, if appropriate, identify funding mechanisms for the project. If approved, the work would begin in mid-2019, but funding would need to be secured in the fall of 2018, making this a current budget issue.

Mr. Dyer also noted that some work may be needed on the salt and sand shed, and that the Town Hall requires some accessibility upgrades that will likely have a FY19 budget impact.

There being no other business, Mr. Tolman adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Jane Schneiter