

BUDGET COMMITTEE

March 21, 2023 in the Selectmen's Meeting Room

Chairwoman Harake called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Chairwoman Harake led the pledge of allegiance.

Introduction of Members (Roll Call)

Katherine Harake, Chairwoman

Brian Warburton

Larry Quinn

Mike Plouffe

Bob Ladd, Village District Representative

Rusty Bridle, Selectmen's Representative

Anne Marie Galanis

Absent: Matt Saunders, Vice Chair

Ms. Galanis introduced herself to the committee and the public. She reviewed her professional background.

I. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr. Ladd MOTIONED to nominate Ms. Harake as Chair of the Budget Committee.

SECONDED by Ms. Galanis.

Vote: 4-2-1. Motion Passes.

In-favor: Ladd, Bridle, Galanis, Quinn.

Against: Plouffe, Warburton.

Abstained: Harake

Ms. Harake MOTIONED to nominate Mr. Saunders as the Vice-Chair of the Budget Committee. SECONDED by Mr. Ladd.

- Ms. Harake noted that she spoke with Mr. Saunders and he has agreed to act as Vice-Chair if a motion to nominate him is made and passes.

Vote: 6-1-0. Motion Passes.

In-Favor: Harake, Ladd, Bridle, Galanis, Quinn, Plouffe.

Against: Warburton.

II. Acceptance of 2/21/23 Minutes

Mr. Bridle MOTIONED to accept the February 21, 2023 minutes. SECONDED by Mr. Ladd. Vote: Unanimous.

III. Discussion of January 2023 Financials

- Ms. Harake noted that representation from the town was unavailable for this meeting and suggested pushing this discussion to the April meeting. The committee agreed.

IV. Select Committee Representatives

- CIP (Capital Improvement Plan)

- Mr. Quinn agreed to continue as the Budget Committee representative. The Budget Committee members voted unanimously for Mr. Quinn to continue in this role.
- Master Plan
 - Ms. Harake noted that Ms. Galanis had previously reached out to voice her interest in this role.

Mr. Bridle MOTIONED to nominate Ms. Galanis as the Budget Committee representative for the Master Plan committee. SECONDED by Ms. Harake. Vote: 6-1-0. Motion passes.

In-Favor: Harake, Galanis, Bridle, Quinn, Plouffe, Ladd.

Against: Warburton.

- Mr. Warburton commented that he has been the representative on the Master Plan committee for three years. He stated that he believes the Planning Board will be surprised. He stated that this is a shock and a tragedy. He wished Ms. Galanis luck.
- CHAT (Coastal Hazards Adaptation Committee)
 - Ms. Harake suggested that the Budget Committee does not need to designate a representative to this committee. She noted that Mr. Ladd is a CHAT representative for the Village District and Jennifer Hale from the Department of Public works also attends the CHAT meetings.
 - Mr. Warburton noted that the Budget Committee has sent representation for years.
 - Ms. Harake asked if anyone is interested in being a Budget Committee Representative for CHAT. Mr. Quinn voiced interest.

Ms. Harake MOTIONED to nominate Mr. Quinn as the Budget Committee Representative for CHAT. SECONDED by Mr. Warburton. Vote: Unanimous.

V. Other Business/Comments

- Ms. Harake made a spreadsheet of the election results for articles that the Budget Committee had a part in.
 - The Municipal Town Budget failed by 12 votes.
 - The Police Lieutenant article failed by about 83 votes.
 - The highest percentage of passing votes were for the Transfer Station Compactor.
 - The highest number of votes overall were for the school budgets.
- Mr. Plouffe made comments:
 - Noted that some of these items have been repeated on the ballot for years.
 - Noted that he feels it is shocking that 300 feet of seawall is 3 million dollars and will cost an extra 2.2 million in interest.
 - Noted concern that the issues extend past the 300 feet that will be addressed. He stated that the Selectmen need to review the issues.
 - Noted concern about Route 1 and the need for repairs. He stated that it hasn't been re-done since the year 2000.
- Ms. Harake made some comments regarding the April meeting:

- Next month the Budget Committee can review financials along with how the year ahead will be impacted by the failure of the Town Budget.
 - Suggested that committee members bring topics that they would like to discuss this year.
 - The Budget Committee schedule for the year should be ready for discussion and approval at the April meeting.
 - Noted that last April the Budget Committee reviewed encumbrances and capital outlays.
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- Mr. Ladd suggested that the Budget Committee look into the possibility of amortizing the bond for the sea-wall.
 - Ms. Harake suggested that someone write up a quick explanation of what the Budget Committee is for the town website.
 - Mr. Warburton made comments regarding the Master Plan Committee and his previous dedication. Ms. Harake thanked him for his time and commitment.

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Ladd MOTIONED to adjourn at 6:23 PM. SECONDED by Mr. Bridle. Vote: Unanimous.