

Union Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2012

Committee Members Present: Christine Savage, David Shaub, Doris Vertz, Jody Wentworth, John Mountainland, John Field, Laura Curtis, Lincoln Hawes, Nate Pease, Scott Sabins, and Terry Bracket

Committee Members Absent: Erik Amundsen

Also Present: Jay Feyler and Helen Zahn

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** by Chair at 6:30 PM.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Given by all who wished.
3. **Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary:** Jay Feyler noted that the current ordinance directs the election of a Chair and Secretary, but not a Vice-Chair. Motion made to nominate John Field to serve as Secretary. Unanimous. Motion made by Nate Pease to nominate Jody Wentworth to serve as Chair. Seconded by John Field. Unanimous. No electronic recording device was available for this meeting. The Secretary will purchase an electronic voice recorder for future meetings.
4. **Approve Minutes of April 16 & 18, 2012:** John Mountainland asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect that he was present at both meetings. A motion was made by Dave Shaub to approved minutes with corrections. Seconded by John Mountainland. Unanimous.
5. **Discussion of Budget Committee Ordinance:** Jody Wentworth suggested a meeting be set with the Board of Selectmen to review the ordinance and identify possible ways to clarify or make improvements. Jay Feyler will provide a copy of the current ordinance to the Select Board and Budget Committee members. A fall meeting will be set as a work session for the Budget Committee Ordinance.
6. **Discussion of Mission and ways to improve service to Community:** Christine Savage noted that the Budget Committee is advisory with limited scope. Nate Pease mentioned his involvement with the County budget and in addition to reviewing the budget, visiting with specific county departments was insightful. He suggested that for Budget Committee members that had time to do so, visiting town departments and talking with department heads could also be helpful. John Field suggested that making the minutes of the Budget Committee's review of the annual town budget available to the public prior to the Town Meeting would provide more information to the Citizens. This would require another Budget Committee meeting to approve the minutes. Once approved, the Budget Committee Secretary will provide Jay Feyler with the minutes in electronic form to make available to the public including posting on the Town's website. Dave Shaub mentioned that the mixed views of the 12 different members were important and helpful in budget discussions. John Field said that we need to be aware that if we make an effort to be at more meetings such as School Budget, etc. that we need public notice if seven or more Budget Committee members are going to be present. Jay Feyler confirmed this and said this applies to any meeting where seven or more members are present.

7. **Set next meeting date:** Jay Feyler noted that the Town's departmental budgets will be ready during January through February. The next meeting date is Wednesday, November 28th at 7:00 at the Town Hall.

8. **Adjourn:** Christine Savage mentioned as we look for ideas from other towns on ways to improve the Budget Committee Ordinance, we should be aware that there are differences to be careful of between towns that have "Charters" and those that do not. Motion made by Dave Shaub to adjourn. Seconded by Christine Savage. Unanimous.