

Minutes for Budget Advisory Meeting

January 6, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 1903 by Chairman Bruce Scamman, members attending: Gary Dolan, Eric Von Der Linden, June Sawyer, Beth Dupell, absent Nathan Merrill.

Eric presented the School Board position on a SRO for Stratham Memorial School, it is their opinion that the current SRO is sufficient. Gary moved and Eric seconded that the minutes of the December 5 and December 10 be accepted as written. Passed

Beth voiced concerns about the lack of communication in general for meetings she would like the Town to study having TV broadcast as part of the information process.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding concerns that fees are not going up as fast as costs of services. It is our recommendation that a comparison be done on expenses as related to Town controlled fees.

Discussion followed as to the fact that the list of salaries presented to us does not contain anything regarding Fire Department salaries, yet their budget contains \$236,000 in payroll.

Recommendations as a result of the meeting

1. Review of the fees charged by the Town in comparison the expenses incurred;
2. Details on the responsibilities of the New Position of Financial Advisor and the Benefits Clerk and in general the direction of this department. Can the payroll and benefits be outsourced? The budget for this department has more than doubled in the past year.
3. All new positions should be warrant articles and voted on at Town Meeting to give the taxpayer a clearer voice in the running to the Town
4. Where else can we increase efficiencies?
5. Has the Select Board considered regionalization of major services?
6. Additional meetings are requested after the January 9th meeting
7. In the future the Budget Advisory Committee would like information on the budgets prior to the presentation

The six members plan to meet again on Tuesday January 14 at 1900

Meeting adjourned 2110