

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
May 15, 2012
MINUTES**

Call to Order:

6:00pm pm Chairman Don Daley called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Daley asked all to rise and pledge allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call:

Present: Don Daley, Chairman; Harriet Cady, Maureen Mann, Brendan O'Donnell, Jeff Shute and Kevin Verville, Members; Steve Barry, Board of Selectmen Rep; Maryann Clark, School Board Rep

Excused: Jim Spillane, Vice Chairman

Absent: Fred McGarry, Member

Approval of Minutes February 17, 2012:

Motion: M. Clark moves to approve the minutes as written

Second: K. Verville

All in Favor – Motion Carries

MBC Vacancy:

Chairman Daley has been made aware of four individuals interested in filling the MBC position made vacant by Dick Pitman's resignation. Laura Hughes and Charles Reese submitted resumes and indicated their interest ahead of the posted deadline and were present. Joseph Cartier had expressed an interest via email after the deadline, but was not available. Dave Carbone was in attendance and expressed an interest in the position as well. Each interested applicant was asked to introduce themselves.

Charles Reese of 260 North Rd works with the Department of Revenue. He is the Deerfield Boy Scout troop Cub Master and has volunteered in various capacities around town. Laura Hughes of 34 Harvey Rd has experience with budgeting processes in a corporate setting and with a son leaving for College now has ample time to become more involved. Dave Carbone lives at 37 Range Rd. He is retired and drives the bus routes around Town. He is interested in being involved with the budgeting process and feels there are many areas of the Town's budget that can be addressed with a more economical approach. H. Cady asked how Ms. Hughes would address the Town Budget, specifically the Police Department as her husband is an Officer. Ms. Hughes responded that she would treat that Department's budget the same as any other. Interested applicants spoke to their motivations for serving on the committee and were asked what, if any, knowledge they had of the School's Budgeting process. All candidates confirmed that there would be no conflict with attending the meetings as scheduled.

Motion: M. Clark moves to nominate Charles Reese to the Committee

Second: J. Shute

Motion: H. Cady moves to nominate Dave Carbone to the Committee

Motion: M. Mann moves to nominate Laura Hughes to the Committee

Second: S. Barry

Vote: 4 cast in favor of C. Reese; 2 cast in favor of L. Hughes, 2 Abstained

Old Business: None

New Business:

M. Clark presented the Committee with updates on a number of issues the School Board is looking at that will likely impact the upcoming budget. The Heating System was upgraded in the Fall of 2008, however at that time the circulator pumps and ventilators in the class rooms were not replaced. They are having issues with temperature regulation in the building and Honeywell has done an on-site visit. The School Board is waiting on that report.

The School Board is reviewing the Modular Classrooms and has four options for going forward presented by Schiavi. The first option would be to buy out the three units as is, they are 11, 12 and 22 years old and that option would be at a cost of \$141,000. The second option would be to replace the three modular units with three new units at a cost of \$430,000. Third, the Board has the option to add a permanent addition to the School. Initial estimates for that work are very rough, but an approximate cost was \$200/\$225 per square foot. The final option would be to continue on with the current lease at a 5% rate reduction. M. Clark pointed out that the current buildings are grandfathered and do not need to be equipped with running water/bathrooms as long as they remain as-is, but should the School move or update them they will need to meet State guidelines by running water and bathroom facilities to them. B. O'Donnell asked if the 5% rate reduction would be one time, or ongoing. M. Clark answered that she believes it would be an ongoing 5% decrease and that currently the annual lease cost is \$50,400. Chairman Daley asked why this discussion is being raised. M. Clark indicated that it is part of the long term facility planning, she could not speak to when the School Board might make its decision.

The third issue being reviewed by the School Board was the High School Contract. The School is coming to the renewal period of its contract and has identified three potential schools for the Deerfield students, Oyster River, Pembroke and Concord High School. M. Clark was a part of a group that recently met with individuals at Pembroke and they have not yet finalized that report back to the School Board.

The final item presented was that the School Board has been informed that there are currently ten teachers who have requested letters of recommendation and are likely seeking employment elsewhere. M. Clark noted that the teaching staff is disappointed in the Town's vote not to renew their contract. Chairman Daley confirmed that morale at the recent School Board meeting seemed low. K. Verville asked what the total teacher population is. M. Clark responded 57.1. Chairman Daley asked if it was known what the length of service of those seeking letters of recommendation was. M. Clark did not have any further details. Chairman Daley suggested that it would help to clarify with the Town's voters what it was that they were opposed to in the contract to that can be kept in mind when negotiations next year's details. He suggested a formalized effort by the School Board to reach out to the community and engage in that dialog would be very helpful and indicated that the MBC might be willing to assist in those efforts.

Citizen's Comments: None

Adjournment:

Motion: S. Barry moves to adjourn the meeting of May 15th

Second: J. Shute

All in Favor – Motion Carries – Meeting Adjourned @ 7:00pm

Next Meeting Tuesday, October 30th

The Minutes were Recorded, Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by Katie Libby.

Pending Approval by the Municipal Budget Committee

