

**Stow Budget Committee 1<sup>st</sup> quarter meeting**

**4/17/24 6:00pm at Stow Town Hall**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

Rob Flint, Michael Carbone, Maureen Riley, Paul Lusky, Steve Dupuis (absent – Patricia Patnaude)

**Discussion:**

When will our quarterly meeting dates be?

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the beginning of each quarter

Voted on the Chair, vice Chair, and secretary of the committee.

**Chairman** – Rob Flint

**Vice Chair** – Patricia Patnaude

**Secretary** - Steven Dupuis

Rob volunteered to setup a budget committee email thread

**Discussion:**

What are we going to do at each meeting?

What authority does the budget committee have?

How does the budget committee function?

It is possible that we (as a committee) cannot accomplish much without a selectman present to provide us with answers to questions which may arise?

What is our agenda? Are we wasting our time? Are we a review board or can we be proactive in forming the actual budget?

What do we want to do?

- Ask what do other committees need for budgets, and what are the priorities for these committees?
- Try to exert influence in forming the yearly town budget?
- Be helpful and be better informed to advise the selectman for future budgets
- Collect information from the selectman and treasurer

How exactly are things budgeted throughout the year?

We need to develop a job description of the budget committee, what is our mission statement

- Why was the budget committee formed in the first place?

A simple internet search did not render a clear description of what a municipal budget committee is

Various ideas were put forth on how the committee should function and be helpful to the selectman.

- Gather up info on town's spending needs
- Possibly expand categories of line items to clarify the expense and make the town report more understandable
- Could start with the Town officers' bills account and break it down to more clearly explain it
- The budget committee could write up an explanation of the budget to be submitted in the town report so the residents can better understand the expenditures.
- Explain the computer line item better, what is the money needed for
- How can the road budget be better explained (this would require the participation of the selectboard and treasurer)
- Mentioned that every bill that is submitted be tied to an account

Rob stated that he will be attending the next selectboard meeting and will discuss this committee's role with them

Next budget committee meeting set for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of July (7/17/24)

Meeting adjourned 7:35 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted 7/17/24

Steven Dupuis

Budget Committee Secretary