

Town of Amherst, NH
WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
2 Main Street
Monday, October 26th, 2020
6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

- Lisa Eastland
- Danielle Pray
- Matt Seiler
- Scott Tuthill
- James Kuhnert
- Mike Parisi
- Lori Mix (Alternate)
- Bill Loscocco
- Cheryl Eastman (Finance Director)

ABSENT

- Sarah Bonnoit (Alternate)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of the 9/28/2020 meeting were approved as circulated
- Motion to approve by Bill, seconded by Danielle, with Mike abstaining
- Minutes, as taken, will be formally approved and/or amended at the next meeting, with acceptance/amendments so noted in subsequent minutes.

CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting began at 8:30 PM

AGENDA

Item #1 : Citizen Forum

- No citizen comments (none in attendance)

Item #2 : Update on Structure of Library Finances by Lori Mix

- The Library has numerous trust funds, some restricted to a specific purpose and others more flexible
- One example of a restricted fund is a memorial fund with a balance of \$6000 specifically for books in the Children's Room.
- Some funds are managed by the Town, others that have been granted to the Library directly are not
- Ways and Means members assigned to the Library (Lisa, Matt, and Scott) agree to inquire about the current amount of funds in the various trusts and their expenditures in the coming Department meeting

Item #3 : Join Facilities Advisory Committee (JFAC) Update by Lisa Eastland

- JFAC is planning a \$90-\$100 million bond request this March for the schools
- \$30 million of the request will be for an Amherst Middle School renovation
- Souhegan High School would also receive money for a new secure vestibule

Item #4 : Discuss Strategic Plan Presentations

- Lisa commended Cheryl on the new budget format
- Lisa reminded members that recommendations should be finalized by December 7th, and that follow-up questions to department heads are appropriate after budget meetings if there are any remaining questions
- Danielle stated that Cheryl is a great resource, and that W&M members should reach out to her if they have any needs or questions
- Jim inquired about the general structure and purpose of the upcoming departmental meetings, and W&M members with previous experience then explained the meeting process
- Bill expressed concern with the clarity and structure of the planned side-path warrant articles
- W&M members discussed the plan for obtaining federal TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) funding, and agreed that the W&M would like to see more detail from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee's plan for add-on projects to be added to the overall grant proposal so that the request meets the minimum amount required
- Danielle reminded everyone of the discussion surrounding the Bike and Ped warrant article from last year, specifically that the Amherst Street portion was chosen for cost efficiency even though the Boston Post Road portion was a very popular alternative
- With the wording of the Bike & Ped warrant article to be determined, W&M members decided to defer further discussion until that time

Item #5 : Questions, Comments, and Concerns

- Jim inquired if the town can borrow to take advantage of the low interest rate environment, and Cheryl clarified that any borrowing from the Town must be tied to a specific purpose
- Cheryl informed us that she can distribute information and direct questions as appropriate, but that we should not respond with "reply-all" since replies to a majority of W&M members would constitute a meetings
- Cheryl clarified that the unassigned fund balance cannot be arbitrarily accessed by the Board of Selectmen, but instead must be approved by the voters

NEW BUSINESS

None

NEXT STEPS

- Members will meet with department heads as planned and meet back with findings

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

NEXT MEETING

November 9th, after the BOS Meeting