

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes, August 9, 2018

Attendance: Andy Reed, Tabi Littlefield, Penny Sampson, Tony Avila, Pat Clark, Dan McCormick, Alicia McCormick

Called to order at 6:40.

Motion made and passed to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

We discussed hearing from special appropriations non-profits at our November meeting, giving them the opportunity to gather signatures on voting day.

More conversation was made on how the town should handle the situation with the FD budget and the FD Association. Selectmen sent a letter making requests regarding financial records/reporting and transparency. Hose testing costs were much higher than anticipated (\$3,700). Selectmen believe that going forward the FD will be more transparent about their needs and expenditures. Progress is evident that cooperation is improving. What MOFGA pays the town to hire the FD for the fair (3 days) does not cover the expense to the town to have our FD truck and men there. We will ask them to give more to cover this cost. There were 26 false alarm calls to the FD from Unity College last year. We would like to have an ordinance to fine them after so many, because it costs the town every time the FD responds. We are researching other methods to off-set the FD expenses.

There was some confusion between the old and new town web sites, which led to some people not being able to locate the minutes from the planning board's meetings. This issue was solved and all know where to look for these minutes now. We could also request to be on the planning board's email list.

We discussed mowing Aldrich's lawn to make the town look nicer, but the owners are not permitting anyone to mow. Other properties in town are starting to look just as bad.

The town is trying to build a surplus. The EDC has talked about getting rid of the revolving loan fund. To make a long story short, the struggles involved to make these loans to businesses do not in turn make any payback to the town. It's just not worth the trouble; we should let the banks do this.

In two years the road loans will be paid off. Discussion was held about what to do with the money after the loans are paid. Some of it needs to be used to keep maintenance on our roads. Some of it could be used towards our other loans. Some of it should simply be tax relief for the people of Unity; we want the taxes to go back down, as was talked about when these loans were originally approved by the people. It would be wrong to continue to tax at the same level after the loans have been paid when we know the people of Unity are struggling to make ends meet.

Penny asked us to consider options for the future of the neck downs on Main St.

Adjourned at 8:pm

Next meeting: Nov. 15, 2018