MEETING MINUTES OF Wednesday, December 16, 2020

CALL TO ORDER
Call to order at 6:04 PM by Robert Schiferle, Chair

MEMBERS PRESENT (12)
Robert Schiferle, Chair (IP)
Katie Bachelder, Vice Chair (IP)
Jeremy Everson, Secretary (IP)
Carol Richardson, Select Board Rep. (IP)
Ted Mitchell, School Board Rep. (R)
John Christakos (IP)
Fred Hast (IP)
Larry Konopka (R)
Mary Paradise (R)
Ralph O’Dell (R)
Helen Schiff (R)
Randy Severance (IP)

(IP) member attended in person
(R) member attended remotely

MEMBERS ABSENT (2)
Michael Cabral
Ammy Ramsey

GUESTS PRESENT
None

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED:
– Pittsfield Revenue Summary 2021-2022 (Default Budget 12/16/2020)

Agenda Item 1: Membership Change
Discussion: According to RSA 32:14 Michael Cabral is no longer a member of this committee. Mr. Cabral missed four consecutive meetings without being excused by the chairman. The committee did not take action to appoint a new member to the vacant seat.
Agenda Item 2: Budget Overview and Tax Rate
   – Documents Referenced: Pittsfield Revenue Summary 2021-2022 (Default Budget 12/16/2020)

Discussion:
   • The AFT contract proposal was refused by its members and will go back to negotiations. This contract includes the town hall administration staff and the fire department.
   • The estimated tax impact is a best forecast of what the tax rate will be for the budgeted year. It could be thought of as a worst-case-scenario, but must be considered as such to cover potential expenditures.
   • The town budget proposes a tax increase of $0.45. The school budget proposes a tax increase of $4.71, with a default budget proposal of a tax increase of $4.41. This is significant increase that will demand answers and consideration from voters.
     o The largest impact in the school budget comes from the decrease in the State Adequacy Grant. The schools are looking at a decrease of $1,022,933 in revenues just from the State Adequacy Grant. This amount will need to be covered by tax revenues.
   • The question was proposed, “How do the committee members feel about this budget? Do we have any interest in trying to propose cuts to make up this amount of revenue decreased to keep the tax rate stable?” There was much discussion about this.
   • There was also some discussion about asking for details about the one-time expenditures for building maintenance from last year that are in the budget again this year. Those details will be requested and we hope to have them for the next meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Approval of Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes
   – Motion to Approve: M. Paradise
   – Motion 2nd: R. Severance
   – 12 (yes) – 0 (no) – 0 (abstentions)
Motion Passed
Budget Committee Calendar:
  - January 6, 2021, 6pm
  - January 13, 2021, 6pm

**Next Meeting**
Next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, starting at 6:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Submitted by: Jeremy Everson, Secretary

Approved:

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Robert Schiferle, Chair

Date