

Minutes of the Readfield Budget Committee

Thursday, October 16, 2014

Readfield Town Office

Members present: John Parent, Chair; Kathryn Mills Woodsum, Vice-Chair; John Perry

Members of the Readfield Select Board joined the Budget Committee. Present: Sue Reay, Val Pomerlau, Greg Durgin, Tom Dunham

About a dozen members of the public attended the meeting. The meeting was also televised on the PEG station.

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm

The meeting was opened with a statement from Chair Parent concerning the reason for the meeting; to get input and guidance from the Select Board for the process and goal of the upcoming budget season.

Comments were made and discussion ensued by members of both boards.

The general topics from the Select Board were, to hold the budget to a 'goal' of a 16 mil rate, to receive detailed reports from committees and boards, and to begin the budget season meetings in Jan. The general replies to the Select Board topics from the Budget Committee were to continue to responsible in budgeting while aiming for a lower mil rate, to receive written and detailed information from committees and boards, and to be certain that all parties are notified in advance that we may start meetings in January.

Budget Committee topics were, having the Budget Committee visit physical sites to see the projects of various committees, reviewing monthly expenditures to see how well the budgeted amounts are working in each category, having discussion amongst the committee members evaluating the process used, and scheduling of meetings (all of which are public.)

Comments and questions were solicited from the public.

The general topics were to reduce the mil rate (even lower than 14, how about 11), only fund necessities, fund and hold annual Heritage Days, have all requests come in firm numbers, have requests come in guaranteed estimates/quotes for the full fiscal year, have requests come with researched amounts, have everyone be able to discuss amounts with exact figures not in recalled or estimated amounts, continue to fund all needed items.

Comments from one member of the public, Mr. , beene Carbonacame inflammatory during one of several times he spoke. Mrs. Woodsum asked Mrs. Reay, as Select Board Chair, what could be done about following the meeting rules the Select Board has; Mrs. Reay responded that this was not her meeting and the Budget Committee Chair would need to handle the situation. At this point that particular conversation ended.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Submitted by: Kathryn Mills Woodsum