

Town of Rye
Budget Committee
First Quarter Review

Meeting
Thursday, April 26, 2018
7:00 PM
Rye Town Hall

Attendees: Chair Jaci Grote, Peter Crawford, Alternate Shawn Crapo for the Rye Beach Village District, Doug Abrams, Mae Bradshaw, Phil Winslow, Randy Crapo (arrived late), Ralph Hickson, Scott Marion.

Chair Grote calls to order and pledge of allegiance.

Chair Grote: First let's review the previous meeting minutes (February 6, 2018).

Motion to approve by Phil Winslow, seconded by Mae Bradshaw. All in favor except two who abstained: Scott Marion and Doug Abrams.

Chair Grote: First let's do the elections.

Chair Grote: First, let's vote for Chairperson.

Motion by Doug Abrams to elect Jaci Grote Chairperson. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw. All in favor.

After this vote, Randy Crapo arrived.

Chair Grote: Can we please vote to re-elect Peggy Balboni? She could not be here but is happy to participate again if she is voted in.

Motion by Shawn Crapo to elect Peggy Balboni as Vice Chairman, seconded by Phil Winslow. All in favor.

Chair Grote: Then can I get a motion to re-elect Peter Crawford as Clerk?

Motion by Doug Abrams to re-elect Peter Crawford as Clerk, seconded by Scott Marion. All in favor.

All elections are complete.

Chair Grote: Okay. Scott can we discuss the School budget? Thank you for attending the Budget Committee Review Meeting.

Scott Marion reviews the budget so far. Currently, we are looking good. We did have some retirement buyouts. We needed to hire an English as a second language teacher. Our bottom line is better than it has been in a long time.

Mae asks a question about a security system for the door at the Middle School. What will the cost be? Scott explains that the classrooms don't have working telephones in them and they are making some upgrades for the classrooms.

Question: The audio system in the school needs to be fixed. The cafeteria does not work well from previous meetings.

This has been repaired.

CIP discussion.

Chair Grote: The CIP represents capital expenses down the road. This information is being used as a forecasting tool for the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. It should be as accurate as possible.

Randy Crapo: My experience with CIP is that it is a forecasting tool to help with Bond forecasts.

Peter Crawford: Any update on enrollments in the schools? Kindergarten and first grade? Any updates on High school? Fifth to sixth grade?

Scott Marion: It is really too soon to see any information. The loss to private schools in sixth grade is expected to be in line with prior years.

Discussion and explanation of trust funds. They do not go on the General Ledger at all.

Chair Grote: Let's look at town expenditures.

Question: Can we ask if there are questions rather than go through each item?

Chair Grote: Sure let's go around the table. Any highlights?

Question: Legal is over budget. Can you explain?

Town Finance Director Cyndi Gillespie: We paid out a settlement related litigation.

Finance is at 63% paid for the total. The audit fee has already been paid. Software licensing fees and insurance were paid a month ahead.

Can you tell me what the tax rate is?

I believe it is \$10.11.

Chair Grote: CIP Systems should be used so the Budget Committee can see what we are spending and look at our needs.

Peter Crawford: Question regarding the Fire Department. It looks like we are at 73%.

Fire Chief Mark Cotreau: Overtime wages are up \$12,000. 53% left. We had two persons that were out on leave & one is in retirement. We are maintaining coverage by utilizing our employees with overtime. I believe the net loss is \$16,783.

Fire Chief: Some training some will be put off till next fiscal year. The \$3000 will be spent this year.

Mae Bradshaw: Page 6 of the Parsonage Fund. What are we doing with this building?

Answer: We can possibly collect rent directly.

Mae Bradshaw: Is it sufficient to cover the use and maintenance of the building?

Answer: We have to look at this. These are all things being considered.

Peter Crawford: Animal Control has gone up. Can you tell us why?

Police Chief Kevin Walsh: We have had a few incidents and one is in Superior Court. These were not foreseen. The other problem is that we need employees that are committed to the program.

Mae Bradshaw: What is the Capital Outlay for?

Chief Walsh: The new cruiser

Chair Grote: Lee, how is the new storage coming?

Recreation Director Lee Arthur: We are actually looking at a few different options for storage that would be closer to the existing building.

Chair Grote: Any other business? Okay.

Motion to Adjourn by Shawn Crapo, seconded by Scott Marion. All in favor.

Whereupon the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:42 p.m.