

Orford Budget Advisory Committee

Minutes

September 15, 2022

Members: Ruth Hook, Bob Palifka, Bill Paxton, Tom Thomson, Ken Wiren

Reference – BAC: Budget Advisory Committee SB: Selectboard

Meeting called to order 5:50

Elect Chairperson

Tom T motion to elect Ruth Hook, Ken W 2nd motion. Motion Passed

Other business

- Ruth H requested from Esther Dobbin-Marsh, Town Administrator Assistance, the 2023 Budget Meeting Schedule. Esther will be sending out the budget letters to committee chairs and department heads on the 20th of September.
- Questioned asked, who was signed as Selectboard Liaison to the BAC?
- Discussion: How would the BAC like to proceed with this year's Budget process?
 - Conversation ensued about last year's process, the BAC submitting written questions, the SB Office responding with written answers. Noted it takes time to create the question document. Discussed was our job is to gather information from departments/committees to maintain reasonable tax rates for the town, need to be invited to attend the SB meeting with Dept. Heads, SB/BAC Meetings, if requested for Dept. Heads/Committee Chairpersons, scheduled in a timely manner. Last year, having a Dept. Head, who represented 2 departments, attend our last SB/BAC last meeting, 12/6/21, could only spent 40 minutes before leaving for another meeting, still left us with unanswered questions, and the SB requesting a draft report from the BAC by 12/15/21.
 - Members agreed that we needed to write a letter to the Selectboard requesting that this year we meet with the SB when they hold their first meeting with Dept. Heads/Committee Chairpersons, as had been done in the past with success. Members felt it would help "*stream line the process*" by avoiding asking the same questions repeatedly.
- BAC's major budget concerns focused on the Police Dept., Fire Dept., Highway Dept., Cost of repairs to all town vehicles and equipment, Cost of repairs to town roads due to mud season, What jobs were Contracted out and at What Expense, Parks & Recreation (Rivendell Community Field Contract), Planning Board.
- Request mileage and hours to all town vehicles and equipment so far this year.
- Request an update on both purchases of the 2 new Highway Dept., Trucks and Police Dept. Truck.

Ken W Motion to adjourn, Tom T 2nd. Motion Passed

Adjourned 6:15

Respectfully Submitted

Ruth Hook