Warrant Committee Minutes

Southwest Harbor Monday February 17, 2021 @ 6:00 PM

via Zoom

1. Call to Order/Roll Call — Chair Don Lodge called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. Present were Warrant Committee members Lydia Goetze, Alan Rosenquist, Carl Wrubel, John Williams, Ellen Pope, Jim Vallette, and Priscilla Ksionzyk. Town Manager Dana Reed, and Select Board Member Kristin Hutchins.
2. Adoption of the Agenda - Adopted as written
3. Approval of Minutes - February 8, 2021 -

Motion by Ksionzyk to approve the minutes of February 8, 2021 as written. Second by Goetze. Passed 8-0-0.

Community Service Organizations –

1. Ruth Davis spent a few minutes updating Committee on the new IRS regulations regarding tax exemptions for 501.C.6 organizations, which includes chambers of commerce. Hutchins noted that it was the intention of the Select Board to join the Chamber. Lodge noted that Ruth had sent him some discussion points just prior to meeting, and he had not had time to forward them to Committee, but would do so for brief discussion next meeting.
2. Discussion of long-term financing request for Mt. Height Cemetery: Lodge had forwarded to Committee a spreadsheet cemetery had sent to Select Board 2 years prior for this request. Discussion generally involved whether this was rigorous enough to allow WC to recommend a partial commitment on the condition that a fully-rigorous budget be presented next year to qualify for continuation of funding.

Motion by Ksionzyk for $10,000 for the Mt Height Cemetery Reserve Account. Second Williams. Vote was 4-4 Motion Fails.

1. It should be noted that during the discussion, the question of how such funding might be handled in future if Select Board chose to approve it. Hutchins felt that Town would set up a Reserve Account in same manner as others, and when requests for projects were made by cemetery, Select Board would approve such withdrawal based on receipt of bid information from cemetery. This approach seemed sensible to WC members.

V. Highway Department Budget & CIP -

Foreman Scott Alley gave an update on the Department and reviewed the budget and CIP with the Warrant Committee.

1. Discussion was had regarding “small projects” item in Reserve Accounts; Alley & Hutchins pointed out that as a result of a costly small repair project this year, the need for a reserve for such unanticipated projects became apparent, and this account was added as a result.

VI. Harbor Department Budgets & CIP

New Harbormaster Jesse Gilly reviewed the Harbor Budget and CIP with the Warrant Committee.

1. It was noted that Salary item had increased due to Select Board intention of hiring a part-time Harbormaster for weekends.
2. Discussion was had on Harbormaster truck. Hutchins and Goetze noted that this had been previously authorized by Select Board because it was though improper for the HM to use his own vehicle for launching and removing boat in salt water. There were questions as to the amount of use this involved. Gilly and Alley pointed out that HM travels among 3 different dock areas, as well as to and from Town Office, and frequently moves items from place to place. This seemed to satisfy questioners, but it was decided to add tentative item to Committee’s report to SB, issue of inclusion to be decided when report is discussed.

VII. Additional Business.

1. Lodge noted that his intention at next meeting was to go over all issues so far reviewed in the format in which items will appear in Town Warrant, and vote formally on Committee’s recommendations.
2. Vallette reminded Lodge that Committee would still like to speak with Families First for a bit more clarity as to their budget. Lodge will contact them for next meeting.

VIII. Next Meeting February 22, 6:00 PM.

IX. Adjourn Meeting

Motion to adjourn at 7:09 pm by Vallette, Second by Williams. Passed 8-0-0.