

Minutes
Joint Workshop
Bar Harbor Town Council & Communication Technology Task Force
February 2, 2016

- I. **CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 p.m.** – In attendance were Councilors: Paul Paradis, Gary Friedmann, Anne Greenlee, Peter St. Germain, Burt Barker, David Bowden, Clark Stivers; and Town Manager Cornell Knight.
 - A. **Excused Absence(s)** – All were present.
- II. **Broadband & Fiber Optic** – *Discussion and follow up of the Tilson presentation with the Communication Technology Task Force.* – Following a number questions and comments, discussion ensued. Council took no action. There will be an informational meeting with the CTF on February 4th for public comments and an opportunity to provide answers to questions.

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Resumed regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting at 7:00 pm

- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** – *The Town Council allows at this time up to fifteen minutes of public comment on any subject not on the agenda and not in litigation with a maximum of three minutes per person.* – Resident Donna Karlson reported that she did not receive a Broadband Survey in her tax bill.

Resident Roger Innes spoke of the need for tax relief. He passed out a seven page document of summary and questions regarding budget and tax relief. He provided comparison of incomes in Maine and used our school system salaries. In addition, he expressed concerns of the Town developing fiber optic or broadband coverage for all of the Town at a cost of \$15,000,000.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. **January 19, 2016 – Regular Meeting**
 - B. **January 21, 2016 – Special Meeting**
 - C. **January 26, 2016 – Special Meeting**
 - D. **January 28, 2016 – Special Meeting**

- Councilor St. Germain noted his name was incorrect in the minutes of January 21, 2016, first page, first item, third paragraph. Mr. Friedmann, with second by Ms. Greenlee, moved to approve minutes of January 21, 2016 as amended and January 19, 26, 28, 2016 as presented. Motion passed 7-0.
- V. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Stivers, with second by Ms. Greenlee, moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion passed 7-0.
- VI. **CONSENT AGENDA** – *A single vote has been scheduled to approve the following routine items of business without discussion, unless individual agenda item action is requested by a Councilor:*
- A. **LUO Amendments for June 14, 2016** – *Possible action to schedule a final public hearing on March 1st and to sign the Land Use Ordinance certifications for the public hearing.*
- Mr. St. Germain, with second by Ms. Greenlee, moved to approve the consent agenda as published. Motion passed 7-0.
- VII. **REGULAR BUSINESS:**
- A. **Cruise Ship Committee** – *Review of the 2015 Cruise Ship season by Committee Chair Eben Salvatore and possible motion to accept.* – Cruise Ship Committee Chair Eben Salvatore summarize another successful cruise ship season despite the cancellations due to weather, netting 13,000 fewer passengers than 2014. Cruise ship funds are used to fund the ferry terminal study, comfort station services, sidewalk reconstruction and maintenance, and debt service for various Town parks and projects. He announced Professor Gabe from the University of Maine will meet with the committee, on March 11, and hope he will agree to another survey providing updated statistics about the economic impact cruise ships have on Bar Harbor. Professor Gabe previously did a survey in 2002.
- Mr. St. Germain, with second by Mr. Barker, moved to thank Eben Salvatore for the presentation and accept the report and place it on file in the town records. Motion passed 7-0.
- B. **Cruise Ship Informational Services** – *Annual report by Chamber of Commerce Interim Executive Director Martha Searchfield on the 2015 cruise tourism season and possible motion to accept.* – Interim Executive Director Martha Searchfield and Melanie Graten, Director of Visitor Services, provided statistics on the three locations the Chamber provides visitor information. They saw an improvement in the service at the bus drop off point with more police presence. Following the brief summary, Mr. Friedmann, with second by Ms. Greenlee, moved to thank Melanie Graten and the Chamber of Commerce for the review and accept the report and place it on file in the town records. Motion passed 7-0.
- C. **FY17 Budget** – *Final review of FY17 Budget and tentatively adopt the budget as presented or amended and schedule a public hearing for February 16.* – Town Manager Cornell Knight was pleased to announce reduced budgets from the Bar Harbor School department, mainly due to

lower cost for heating oil; the County budget came in less than estimated; and Town’s reduced heating cost adjustments resulted in a blended tax rate of 2.6%.

Following further discussion to reinstate the Broadband engineering study into one fiscal year for the original amount; Mr. Stivers, with second by Mr. Friedmann, moved to amend the FY17 CIP Broadband study to the original funding of \$100,000. Motion failed 3-4(Nay: Mr. Bowden, Mr. Paradis, Mr. St. Germain, Ms. Greenlee).

Mr. Friedmann, with second by Mr. St. Germain, moved to tentatively adopt and submit the FY17 Budget to the Warrant Committee as submitted to-date and schedule a public hearing for February 16, 2016. Motion passed 6-1(Nay: Mr. Stivers).

Town Council's Budget Adjustments - FY2017

Date	Cost Ctr A/C #	Line Item - Description	Adjustment		Effect on Taxes () = Reduction
			Adjusted Revenues	Adjusted Expenses	
1/21/16	86-5902	reduce HS assessment		(54,962)	(54,962)
	68-5962	Wash Hancock County Agency		(1,132)	(1,132)
	68-5942	American Red Cross		(1,418)	(1,418)
	68-5948	CH & C Service		(255)	(255)
1/26/16	24-5508	Muni Bldg Heating Oil		(6,500)	(6,500)
	49-5508	Pub Safety Heating Oil		(4,275)	(4,275)
	77-5508	Bus Garage Heating Oil		(1,658)	(1,658)
1/28/16	2140-6202	CIP-Amb. Defibrillators		(10,000)	(10,000)
	2122-6115	CIP-Tech.- Broadband Eng. Study		(50,000)	(50,000)
2/2/16	86-5900	County Assessment -		(2,782)	(2,782)
	88-5982	Elem School- oil & other reductions		(87,477)	(87,477)

86-5902	HS Assessment - oil cost reduction??			
	Total Changes to Date			(220,459)

D. **Treasurer’s Warrant** – *Request of Treasurer to authorize paid bills.* – Mr. St. Germain, with second by Ms. Greenlee, moved to sign the Treasurer’s warrant for paid bills. Motion passed 7-0

VIII. **TOWN MANAGER’S COMMENTS** – Mr. Knight announced in addition to the public hearing of the FY17 Budget next agenda, there will also be Pay As You Throw and MRC joinder agreement to consider.

IX. **COUNCIL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

Mr. Stivers reminded everyone of the February4th meeting at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the same broadband and fiber optics project and an opportunity for the public to comment.

Mr. Bowden suggested for consideration that the League of Towns be a participant of the MDI high school budget process.

Mr. St. Germain agreed with Mr. Bowden, more eyes on the budget.

Ms. Greenlee thanked Roger Innes and those who provided comments and information this evening. It is helpful to hear what people are thinking and encourage it.

Ms. Greenlee inquired if Council could work with a zero increased budget. If you have X amount of dollars and a project comes in greater, you find ways to work within the budget. Can that be done?

Mr. Friedmann was pleased to report over 200 people showed up in Northeast Harbor for the “Climate To Thrive”, a project to see MDI go more energy efficient.

Mr. Paradis stated that this budget is pretty flat except Hydrant Rentals and Broadband.

X. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A. **Legal Consultation** – *Pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405-6 (E) for the purposes of consulting with the Town’s Attorney by phone concerning pending litigation.* – Mr. St. Germain, with second by Mr. Barker, moved to go into executive session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405-6 (E) for the purposes of consulting with the Town’s Attorney by phone concerning pending litigation. Motion passed 7-0. Council entered into executive session at 8:00 p.m. and returned to regular session at 8:24 p.m. No action was taken.

- XI. **ADJOURNMENT** - Mr. Bowden, with second by Ms. Greenlee, moved to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. Motion passed 7-0.

Patricia A. Gray, Town Clerk