

Warrant Committee Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

6:00 PM

- I. Call to Order: 6pm
 - a. Roll Call:
 - i. Present: J Berberian, B. Chaplin, C. Chappell, C. Cough, K. DesVeaux, M. Kelly. S. Libby, L. Lopez, E. Salvatore, A. Sasner, C. Smith, K. St. Germain, J. Young—E. Sassaman (joined meeting at 6:25 pm)
 - ii. Absent excused: B. Reece

- II. Approval of prior WC meeting minutes April 11, 2022; August 22, 2022; September 1, 2022
 - a. Moved by Libby, seconded by Sassner;
 - b. Moved by Libby, seconded by Chaplin to amend the motion so that approval of April 11, 2022 minutes voted on by Warrant Committee members who were serving at that time.
 - c. Motion passed **13/0/0**
 - d. Motion to approve April 11, 2022 minutes
 - e. Moved by Libby, seconded by Sasner
 - f. Motion passed **12/0/0**
 - g. Motion to approve August 22, 2022 and September 2, 2022 minutes
 - h. Moved by Libby, seconded by Sasner
 - i. Motion passed **13/0/0**

- III. Public Comment—
 - a. No speakers

- IV. Opening remarks
 - a. Chair Libby welcomed members and reminded them to complete their ethics and FOAA obligations before next week.
 - b. Chair Libby discussed the budget process ahead, the role of the WC, and the expected meeting schedule based on the new Charter requirements.
 - c. Chair Libby reminded members that there would be a series of joint meetings with the TC in the following weeks to hear budget presentations from municipal officials and department chairs.
 - d. Chair Libby explained that he, Vice-Chair Berberian, and Secretary Smith had met earlier in the month with TM Sutherland to preview the budget process and discuss changes in the WC's function that might improve that process for this year. He then explained that the pending motions for this evening's meeting were developed from these discussions.

- e. Chair Libby then explained each of the four pending motions, the change each would have on the operation of the WC, and why he, Vice-Chair Berberian, and Secretary Smith supported these.
 - i. Motion to create a new subcommittee, “Public Infrastructure”, consisting of the “Public Works and Highway Department” sections of the municipal budget—and a few agencies. Currently, these departments and agencies are under the “Protections Subcommittee”. If approved, this motion will bring the number of WC subcommittees to four and amend the WC bylaws to reflect the same.
 - ii. Motion to reduce the minimum number of members per subcommittee from 4 to 3 members. This change is necessary to ensure that each subcommittee is adequately staffed following the addition of a new subcommittee.
 - iii. Motion to amend the WC bylaws by changing the name of the “Protections” subcommittee, which includes Police, Fire and Harbor sections of the municipal budget, to “Public Safety”.
 - iv. Motion to streamline the approach to formulating the WC’s initial recommendations to the TC. The new budget process created by the 2020 Charter changes calls for the WC to make two rounds of recommendations during the budget process: once at the second joint TC/WC meeting, held sometime before the fourth Tuesday in February, and again after the TC has adopted the Town Manager’s budget. The first set of recommendations are directed at the TC, the second at the voters of Bar Harbor.
 - 1. This motion proposes removing responsibility for developing the first set of recommendations from each subcommittee and, instead, soliciting these directly from WC members. During this stage, subcommittee chairs will still act as the point of contact for questions, suggestions, and recommendations concerning their respective sections of the budget. They will also continue to forward questions from WC members to Kevin and compile a running list of recommendations for presentation to the full WC for discussion and vote. If when/approved by the WC, these “preliminary” recommendations will be presented to the TC at the last joint meeting.

V. Main Motions

- a. Motion to amend Article. 5 of the Warrant Committee By-Laws by reducing the minimum number of members from four (4) to three (3).
 - i. Moved by Libby, seconded by Berberian
 - ii. Motion passed unanimously **13/0**

(Ezra Sassaman joins the meeting—bringing total members in attendance to 14)

- b. Motion to amend Article. 5, Section A. of the Warrant Committee By-Laws by increasing the number of subcommittees from three (3) to four (4) by adding a new subcommittee: “Public Infrastructure”.
 - i. Moved by Libby, seconded by Berberian
 - ii. Motion passed unanimously 14/0

- c. Motion to amend Article. 5, Section A. of the Warrant Committee By-Laws to rename the “Protections” subcommittees to “Public Safety” subcommittee.
 - i. Moved by Libby, seconded by Berberian
 - ii. Motion passed unanimously 14/0

- d. Motion to adopt the proposed streamlined approach to formulating the WC’s budget recommendations to the TC, in particular relieving subcommittees from making and presenting the initial recommendations that serve as the basis for the WC’s initial recommendations.
 - i. Moved by Libby, seconded by Berberian
 - ii. Motion passed unanimously 14/0

VI. Adjournment

- a. There being no further comments or questions, Chair Libby called the meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM.