

Minutes
Special Bar Harbor Town Council Meeting
Joint Meeting with Warrant Committee
February 22, 2022

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – 6:04 p.m. by Zoom webinar
In attendance were **Councilors** Jefferson Dobbs, Matthew Hochman, Valerie Peacock, Gary Friedmann, Joe Minutolo (arrived after initial roll call), Erin Cough, Jill Goldthwait; and **Warrant Committee members** J. Berberian, B. Chaplin, C. Chappell, C. Cough, K. DesVeaux, M. Kelly, S. Libby, L. Lopez, B. Reece, C. Ryan, A. Sasner, E. Sassaman, C. Smith, K. St. Germain, J. Young (arrived after initial roll call); Town Manager Kevin Sutherland and Finance Director Sarah Gilbert.
- II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**— Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote:
- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
| <u>Dobbs</u> | <u>Y</u> |
| <u>Hochman</u> | <u>Y</u> |
| <u>Peacock</u> | <u>Y</u> |
| <u>Friedmann</u> | <u>Y</u> |
| <u>Minutolo</u> | <u>Y</u> |
| <u>Goldthwait</u> | <u>Y</u> |
| <u>Cough</u> | <u>Y</u> |
- Motion passed 7-0.
- III. REGULAR BUSINESS**
- A. Budget Adjustments** – Consideration and possible adoption of budget adjustments recommended by the Warrant Committee.
- Warrant Committee Chair Seth Libby reported that the committee has agreed with the Town Council with respect to the budgets for all departments with two exceptions:
1. the Warrant Committee is recommending the school budget as approved by the school board and dated February 3, 2022 which has a total amount to be raised in taxes of \$6,782,772. This is less than the \$6,954,943 to be raised in taxes as presented in the manager’s budget.
 2. the Council on Feb. 10 moved to reduce School CIP line 6654 from \$3,250,000 to \$3,000,000. The Warrant Committee on Feb. 21 moved to recommend that line be reduced by \$100,000, to \$3,150,000.

Mr. Libby said the Warrant Committee had postponed a vote on education revenue with the understanding that that number is not yet final.

B. Other Recommendations – Possible other recommendations or suggestions.

Mr. Sutherland thanked everyone for getting through the process and said he looks forward to future conversations about how to improve it for next year. He asked the Council and the Warrant Committee to weigh in on proposed motions received ahead of this meeting. Mr. Libby said the Warrant Committee would take up these motions at a future meeting following subcommittee review.

Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to decrease Assessments – High School from \$3,791,681 to \$3,701,291. Roll Call Vote:

- Dobbs Y
- Hochman Y
- Peacock Y
- Friedmann Y
- Minutolo Y
- Goldthwait Y
- Cough Y
- Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to increase Assessments – County from \$879,200 to \$896,367. Roll Call Vote:

- Dobbs Y
- Hochman Y
- Peacock Y
- Friedmann Y
- Minutolo Y
- Goldthwait Y
- Cough Y
- Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Friedmann, with second by Mr. Minutolo, moved to increase Revenue line 65-4363 – Passenger Service Fee to \$2.68 to reflect a 5.9% cost of living adjustment. Roll Call Vote:

- Dobbs Y
- Hochman Y
- Peacock Y
- Friedmann Y
- Minutolo Y
- Goldthwait Y
- Cough Y
- Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Friedmann, with second by Mr. Minutolo, moved to increase Revenue line 65-4363 – Port Development Fee by \$.38 to \$2.53 to cover the expenses related to the additional Island Explorer Route to accommodate Cruise Ship passengers. Roll Call Vote:

- Dobbs N
- Hochman Y
- Friedmann Y
- Minutolo Y
- Goldthwait Y
- Cough Y

Motion passed 5-1. (Ms. Peacock’s connection was interrupted.)

Discussion followed about the school budget and CIP. Connors Emerson School Principal Heather Webster and MDI Regional School System Business Manager Nancy Thurlow and Superintendent Mike Zboray answered questions.

Ms. Peacock moved to increase School CIP line 6654 from \$3,000,000 to \$3,150,000, in line with the Warrant Committee recommendation. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Ms. Cough, with second by Ms. Goldthwait, moved to decrease the amount to be raised in real estate taxes for the Elementary School Fund from \$6,954,943 to \$6,782,772 in the appropriate cost centers as associated with the Feb. 3 school budget approved by the School Committee. This amount is in line with the Warrant Committee recommendation. Roll Call Vote:

- Dobbs Y
- Hochman Y
- Peacock Y
- Friedmann Y
- Minutolo Y
- Goldthwait Y
- Cough Y

Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Libby presented additional recommendations from the Warrant Committee for the Town Council: to consider requiring standard annual filing and disclosure information for Nonprofit Agencies similar to Cooperating Agencies, to consider asking the Police Department to explore the feasibility of producing a Use of Force report to annually disclose incidents where Bar Harbor police officers draw or discharge a firearm or Taser in the line of duty within the municipality, and to consider engaging legal counsel to explore solutions that would permit both the Town Council and the Warrant Committee to extend the current budget season schedule without violating the Charter or without the need for further Charter amendments. Is there a way that we can get more time without having to go through the whole Charter amendment process?

I. **ADJOURNMENT**— Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to adjourn at 7:53 p.m. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y

Hochman Y

Peacock Y

Friedmann Y

Minutolo Y

Goldthwait Y

Cough Y

Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Libby declared the Warrant Committee adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Elizabeth Graves, Town Clerk