

Town of Wiscasset  
Budget Committee  
Meeting Notes 5/18/2022

Budget Committee Attendees:

- Bill Maloney
- Katharine Martin-Savage
- Kim Dolce
- Anna Ridle
- Tom Joyce
  
- Dusty Jones

Minutes:

- Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM on 5/18/2022 by Bill Maloney.
  
- 1st Order of Business: Approval of minutes from 3/28/2022
  - Approved 5-0
  - Tom Joyce commented that none of the minutes for the Budget Committee have been posted to the town website. The most recent ones on the website are from 2019. Bill Maloney said this has been a persistent problem. Kim Dolce and Katharine Martin-Savage suggested that a volunteer or high school student could be assigned to do this if the town does not have the resources.
  
- 2nd Order of Business: Budget Committee ordinance, role and responsibilities
  - Bill Maloney said he called this meeting because several people had inquired about updating the town ordinance related to the Budget Committee.
  - Kim Dolce said the Budget Committee in its advisory role to the Select Board was supposed to vote before the Select Board on warrant articles. But in this year's process the Budget Committee vote was not taken until after the Select Board had voted and put items on the ballot.
  - Kim Dolce said some current or past Select Board members have mentioned eliminating the Budget Committee.
  - Katharine Martin-Savage said that in the past many people in the town put great store in the recommendation of the Budget Committee when they vote.
  - Bill Maloney stated that he believes the Budget Committee is required by law. He said the Budget Committee was helpful to Dennis Simmons during the year in collecting information for the Capital Budget spreadsheets, and perhaps can do more work like that.
  - Anna Ridle said there should be better ways to communicate with the town about ballot items and perhaps the Budget Committee could help with that. Also the town should make sure there is enough time to fully review proposals.

- Kim Dolce said she is surprised that many large financial items are put forward and voted on very quickly, and more time should be spent reviewing and vetting these proposals, and Budget could be used to help do these reviews.
- Tom Joyce said in order for the Budget Committee to be effective it has to have a function the town and the Select Board think is valuable. He said he felt this year that the Budget Committee was tolerated but not seen as valuable. He said that people do not run for Budget Committee because it is not supported. He said there is a lot of opportunity for the Budget Committee to help the Select Board and the Town Manager, but only if they are open to our help.
- Bill Maloney agreed that the Budget Committee can either do the bare minimum or it can be much more useful to the town. He believes it can be much more useful. He suggested the Budget Committee should form a subcommittee to come back with some recommendations.
- Dusty Jones supported the suggested and said the Budget Committee can be very helpful and do more. Kim Dolce reiterated her request to have the Budget Committee meet with the Select Board and review a memo about planning that was written three years ago by John O'Connell.
- No vote was taken.

- Motion to adjourn by Katharine Martin-Savage
- Seconded by Kim Dolce
- Approved 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:22 PM