

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
May 9, 2012**

A meeting of the Municipal Budget Committee was called to order at 6:34 PM in the Professional Development Room at Kennett Middle School with the following members present: Danielle Santuccio, Doug Swett, Betty Loynd, Bill Marvel, Ted Sares, Maureen Seavey, Greydon Turner (arriving at 6:37 PM), Joe Mosca, John Edgerton, Maury McKinney, Brian Charles, Steven Steiner, Michael Fougere, Syndi White and Peter Donohoe. Absent: Karen Umberger.

Joe Mosca led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTIONS

Acting Chairman Danielle Santuccio opened up the floor to nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.

John Edgerton nominated Joe Mosca for Chairman, seconded by Bill Marvel. Ted Sares nominated Danielle Santuccio, seconded by Syndi White. Acting Chairman asked for those in favor of Joe Mosca as Chairman: 12; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 3 - Maureen Seavey, Peter Donohoe and Joe Mosca.

Danielle Santuccio declined the nomination stated that she didn't have the time because she didn't want to do it half way. She would love to be able to do it, but she just couldn't. She didn't have the time she would want to put into it.

Ted Sares stated he thought Joe (Mosca) would be good because he was the assistant a few years ago and this past year when Dave (Sordi) couldn't make a meeting and Danielle (Santuccio) couldn't make a meeting, Joe was the choice. It seems logical that he would follow so he endorsed Joe.

Chairman Joe Mosca opened up the floor to nominations for Vice Chair.

Syndi White nominated Danielle Santuccio for Vice Chair, seconded by Ted Sares. Chairman asked for those in favor of Danielle Santuccio as Vice Chair: 13; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 2 - Maureen Seavey and Peter Donohoe.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ted Sares moved, seconded by Greydon Turner, to consider and accept the Minutes of April 4, 2012. Motion withdrawn.

Chairman Mosca stated seeing that most members just got the Minutes today and not everyone has had a chance to read them, he asked if the motion could be withdrawn and table the approval of the Minutes until the next meeting.

Ted Sares stated there was a point about the Minutes; 95% are taken verbatim off of the disk. Chairman Mosca stated sometimes there are things that are disputed which people have said. Ted stated that last year not once or maybe once. Chairman stated he knew of one time at least

and it was Bill (Marvel) he thought that had a question and it was changed.

NEW BUSINESS

Ted Sares stated he wanted to explain Point of Order to the Chairman. Chairman Mosca stated he was probably the best parliamentarian in the room and that Ted didn't have to tell him what a Point of Order was, he understood it and a Point of Information, he knows them all. Ted stated he was going to anyway; a Point of Order relates to a process, a procedural issue. If there is a procedural issue that's out of order, then somebody can call Point of Order. For example, during the Deliberative Meeting, some fellow came up and started screaming Point of Order as Ted was saying something. He didn't like what Ted was saying and that's not a Point of Order. If it's a real Point of Order, the way that works is nothing else happens until the Point of Order has been exhausted. You can't discuss anything else until it's been exhausted and there's a process that follows. What he was trying to say is that Point of Order should be rarely used because there's a specific process and it's not one to be used lightly. Ted thought the better way would be to say "Ted, excuse me, you're a bit out of order", don't say Point of Order, he would be out of order.

Chairman Mosca stated he was going to try to do things the way they have been done over the past couple of years. He would like to try to do, which we said we were going to do last year but really didn't have the opportunity to, is to have at least two joint meetings with the School Board, if they will have us. He would like to do something in September. Once school starts, we will probably end up going to one of their meetings because they meet twice a month and have a joint meeting, talk about how their budget is going and what's happening, where it is and how they see things. He would like to try to do it again probably in November, just before their budget is out so that if we have any questions, we can put all of our issues on the table at that point in time. Then, when it comes time through the process of our hearings, we'll hopefully have answers.

Syndi White stated she would bring it back to the School Board and get a possible date.

Betty Loynd stated she thought that was a great idea because she's gone to all of the School Board meetings and they do start discussing all of that stuff in September. They present their budgets to the School Board, the Principals do in either October or November and by December they have it pretty much as what they are going to do. They then bring it to us and we say "no, I don't think so". Betty agrees we should be much more proactive and get in on the process. It's a great idea.

Brian Charles asked if it would be possible to get some information before we show up in September. Chairman Mosca stated absolutely and suggested that the members go through their folders from last year which were supposed to be turned in if you haven't done it already. You can keep the information in them, but the folders are to be turned back in. You don't have to, but they would appreciate it if you did to save a little money. The *Basic Law of Budgeting* he would get copies because he

couldn't find his. He will hand out copies to everybody who needs a copy at the next meeting.

Chairman Mosca stated we had sub-committees last year and he didn't know if there were any issues that we really need to set up sub-committees for. If anybody has any issues that they thought we need sub-committees for, let him know. Otherwise we will meet a couple of times over the summer just to stay in touch with what's going on, get the *Basic Law of Budgeting* out to everybody so that they can see what their duties and responsibilities are on this Board.

Chairman Mosca stated for the new members he would try to get copies of the budgets for both the Town and the School from last year so that they can go through things. If there are any open questions that people have or if things that have come up at the end of the year that you have questions on after the fact that you would like to give to the School or the Town to get answers prior to this budget season, we can get that started also. He has several questions for some of the Town Departments that he would like answers to.

John Edgerton requested that we have some Monday meetings and some Wednesday meetings, not always on Wednesday. The School Board meets two Mondays and we could meet here on the alternate Mondays. Just as a suggestion because it leaves Wednesday where you can't do anything. Chairman Mosca stated he believed John was talking about when we start having a couple of meetings a month. Chairman stated he would put it up to the members of Board to see what night works best for them. Wednesdays happened to be working well for everybody and he would like to keep them on Wednesdays, but during budget season when we have to meet twice a week, we'll see what happens then and see what works well for a majority of the members. For now through the summer to November, any meetings we call will probably be on Wednesday.

Ted Sares stated if it wasn't on a Wednesday, he would quit, he would resign. Chairman Mosca stated Mondays were tough for him because he had other meetings himself. Once the time comes, we will put it up to the majority of the members to see what works well for whom.

Steven Steiner stated he had a question concerning the 3.6% raise for the School staff or Superintendent, what was that all about; was that something voted in the Budget. Chairman Mosca and Syndi White both started to answer with the Chairman calling for time out and advising that he didn't want to have to rule with an iron fist, but he will see hands go up and he will call names. When we are busy, he will write names down and he will have an order and he will not miss anybody.

Ted Sares stated he works with those people as he was the School Board Treasurer and he works with those people every week and those people work like dogs. He was so sorry to read that, it was disgraceful in his opinion. What that is, that's a thing that happens with SAU 9. SAU 9 has a committee made up of different people from different towns and he thought Mrs. Gray was the Chair of that committee and Dr. Nelson made it a recommendation for the staff which last year they didn't get anything and he said this year we're going to go with Social Security and that's

what that was all about. Really that doesn't relate to what we work on, that's something else. We didn't control that as far as he knows.

Syndi White stated that has nothing to do with this Budget Committee; it's SAU 9 which is all of the towns. Bill Marvel stated it's out of our jurisdiction.

Betty Loynd asked Steven Steiner if he had an issue with it. Mr. Steiner stated when he ran, he had a lot of people come and talk to him and the situation is that people out there are hurting. He was just concerned that it might be something we had jurisdiction of and he wasn't sure so he was asking a question. People are hurting out there, businesses are hurting out there and that's why he is here.

Ted Sares moved, seconded by Bill Marvel, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 PM. Motion carried with two abstentions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Iris A. Bowden, Recording Secretary