

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
March 25, 2013**

A meeting of the Municipal Budget Committee was called to order at 6:32 PM in the Professional Development Room at Kennett Middle School with the following members present: Chairman Joe Mosca, Maureen Seavey, Steven Steiner, Peter Donohoe, Bill Marvel, Mark Hounsell, Doug Swett, John Edgerton, Michael Fougere, Danielle Santuccio, Greydon Turner and Crow Dickinson. Excused: Maury McKinney, Karen Umberger, Karen Milford, Brian Charles and Syndi White.

Greydon Turner led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Mosca stated that Crow Dickinson was in attendance tonight because Mike DiGregorio was on vacation celebrating his 25th Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations to the DiGregorios. Chairman thanked Crow for attending.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bill Marvel moved, seconded by Steven Steiner, to consider and accept the Minutes of January 30, 2013. In favor: 11; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 1 - Crow Dickinson.

Bill Marvel moved, seconded by Michael Fougere, to consider and accept the Minutes of February 4, 2013. In favor: 11; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 1 - Crow Dickinson.

Greydon Turner moved, seconded by Maureen Seavey, to consider and accept the Minutes of February 6, 2013, as amended. In favor: 11; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 1 - Crow Dickinson.

Bill Marvel stated on page 23 under Old Business, second line, "Super Grant" should be "Sweeper Grant".

Bill Marvel moved, seconded by Peter Donohoe, to consider and accept the Minutes of February 13, 2013, as amended. In favor: 10; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 2 - John Edgerton and Crow Dickinson.

Bill Marvel stated on page 29, second line, "nominating" should be "dominating". Mark Hounsell asked for a corrected reading of that sentence. Bill Marvel read the amended sentence:

"Bill Marvel stated it's not that he didn't want Linda (Fox-Phillips) in the decision, he didn't want her dominating the decision as he feels she had a large hand in doing last time.

Greydon Turner moved, seconded by Peter Donohoe, to consider and accept the Minutes of March 4, 2013. In favor: 11; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 1 - Crow Dickinson.

Chairman Mosca stated this was the fastest meeting ever. Bill Marvel stated we should have some discussion just so that the discussion lasts

longer than the meeting. Danielle Santuccio asked if that was about the boiler, we could talk about it. Chairman stated no, this was about Article 9 where we had to have a re-vote. He still didn't think we had to, but to make everybody happy we did it.

Chairman Mosca advised that the meeting Minutes of February 14, 2013 will be taken up at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Mosca stated everybody that is here is going to be here except for Mark (Hounsell), he wanted to set a date of April 24, 2013 for the reorganization meeting. It's a couple of weeks after the election, it's a Wednesday night. He will send out an e-mail and if it doesn't work for everybody then we'll pick another night. Hopefully it will be here (Professional Development Room at Kennett Middle School) at 6:30 PM. The Committee can talk about a few things at that time and then probably not meet again until the end of summer after that.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Mosca thanked Mark (Hounsell) for stepping in this year and taking the time to help us out; Karen Milford same thing; and Karen Umberger for her 100 years of service on the Budget Committee. He thought Karen (Umberger) was one of the original members when we went to SB2. Her knowledge and her background is going to be sorely missed. She did say she would come and speak with us a couple of times if we had anything that we needed her expertise for. Chairman again thanked all three members for a job well done. He thought we had a good year this year and it was much appreciated. Mark stated it was his pleasure.

Chairman Mosca stated he had two things under New Business that he would like to talk about. One is RSA 32:17 which basically gives the Budget Committee the authority to tell the Town and the School when to have their Budgets to us by. He didn't think it had ever been done as we have just let them give us the Budgets whenever. He is probably going to be told that he can't, but the way he reads it, it says he can. It's something that he would like everyone to think about and maybe at the next meeting, the reorg, we can discuss it. The Town has been pretty good about getting its Budget to us in December. This year we didn't get the School Budget until January. He knows they were working to reduce their Budget and kudos to them for their hard work, but when we get a Budget 3 or 4 days before we're suppose to start the review process with the authority itself, it makes it difficult for us. Something he is throwing around is having the Budgets to us either the first or the second Wednesday in December which would be 2 to 3 weeks before Christmas and would give us time to review everything before we start the formal process of going through everything. This was just something he wanted to throw out so that members are thinking about it. As he said, he is sure that he is going to be told otherwise that he can't due it, but the way he reads the RSA he can do it, or we can do it.

Chairman Mosca stated the last thing he wanted to talk about is social media. As most of you are aware, he doesn't tweet, he doesn't have a Facebook Page, he's not linked in, he doesn't do any of that. It was

brought to his attention that a member of this Committee after one of our meetings posted something on their Facebook Page which was derogatory to a couple of members. He can't tell people what they can and can't post on their Facebook Page or what they tweet or whatever, but he would think that if you can't say something to somebody's face and you put it out there on-line, he can't decide if it's being a coward or whether it's bullying or a combination of both. If you're going to take a shot at somebody, do it in public. If you can put something in writing on your Facebook Page, you should be able to say it to somebody's face. That's all he'll say on that.

Steven Steiner asked if it was anything derogatory towards him. Chairman Mosca stated no. He just thinks if you can put something out there, then you should be able to say it to somebody's face. He can't tell members what they can or can't do.

Doug Swett stated the first thing you (Chairman) brought about getting the Budgets ahead of time, that's been tried before. You're going to beat your head against the wall. He knows that's how it reads and if they do make an effort, you're going to get some estimated figures that you're going to have to throw away a week later. We ought to have it in October.

Chairman Mosca stated he didn't disagree with Doug (Swett), but if we can put them on notice that we want something that's relatively in good shape, and he thought that if they knew it ahead of time that's what the Committee wants, hopefully they can try to get it to us. We'll see what happens. A couple of years ago we got something from the School and by the end of the Budget process the whole book had been changed and that was without us asking them to give it to us ahead of time.

John Edgerton stated this year they changed it 3 times. Chairman Mosca stated to their credit, they were doing the best they could to cut their Budget down. He was not faulting them, like he said, to get something 3 days before you're going to start reviewing it with Department Heads it's kind of tough because there had to be 300 or 400 pages of information to go through.

Doug Swett stated if you take seriously the condition of the Federal Government, the State and the towns, nobody is making a good faith attempt at doing anything. Things can't be run as they used to be because there's not money available to do it no matter how desirable they are to have them done.

Mark Hounsell stated one of the things that he was hoping to do if he gets elected to the School Board, and they should do it even if he doesn't, they should by June 1st, July 1st the latest, give a realistic projection of Revenue, especially as it pertains to the sending towns, the Tuition Contracts. That was where a third of the impact hit us. He thought it was real important that what we saw at the first part of the Deliberative Meeting, and what he hears throughout town, is that we have hit the wall where it comes to ability to pay through property taxes. Federal dollars, like what Doug (Swett) said is squeezing States, mandating that's all they're doing right now is mandating regulations and that will drive our Budget. Locally, that \$800,000.00 hit that we had in lost Revenue played a big part and he thought we should know right off

quick what's projected. Where's so much of it is tied to enrollment, it shouldn't be that hard for them to come up with. Is it going to be another reduction of \$800,000.00 or do they anticipate more. He thought that's where they need to start: what are they going to have for projected Revenue. As far as the Tax Rate on the School, that's it. It can't go any higher. The people just can't afford any higher Tax Rate on the School Property Tax. He thought it started with Revenue and they're going to have their ins and outs about the Budget all the way up until January of next year, but Revenue is a big thing.

Mark Hounsell stated that he wanted to point out that technically we're in a recess between the Deliberative and the voting session to Town Meeting so Town Meeting is still going on. The School Board voted 6 to 1 with John Skelton voting in the negative to endorse the Budget Committee's number that was supported by the voters at the Deliberative Meeting. The School Board is on record as supporting that and he thought that was significant, especially if we take a look at what happens if the School Budget doesn't pass then that Default Budget which is humungous would kick in. He thought it was important for the people to understand the need to vote "yes" on the School Budget and not let the Default Budget come in.

Bill Marvel stated he didn't remember the last time, if it ever happened and it must have at some point, the School Board supporting the Budget Committee when the Budget Committee reduced their Budget. Chairman Mosca stated it set a precedent. Bill stated there was a comment at the School Meeting that whatever they give us, we reduce which isn't really true because last year we agreed. In fact in the June 2011 meeting, the Special Meeting, we agreed with them and this time they agreed with us.

Danielle Santuccio asked how much higher is the Default Budget. Chairman Mosca stated he thought it was a couple of million dollars. Mark Hounsell stated it's more than what the School Board asked for. Danielle stated she thought it was very important that it be very well known. Chairman stated if you vote against it, you're voting to spend more money.

Maureen Seavey asked where the reporter from The Daily Sun was tonight. Chairman Mosca stated they would get something out of the tapes.

Mark Hounsell stated he thought that this meeting, and people will watch this on television, that they understand there's a lot of firsts going on here and he'd hate to have this be the first time that a Default Budget is adopted. John Edgerton stated when nobody agreed to it.

Steven Steiner stated they have to get out and vote. Mark Hounsell agreed stated people do have to vote. Danielle Santuccio stated some people may vote against it just to vote against it. Chairman Mosca stated he thought if people read it, they will vote for it. If they read through the whole article and realize that if they vote against it that they're going to increase their taxes.

Steven Steiner suggested that the Chairman write a letter to the Editor. Chairman Mosca stated he could do that. Mark Hounsell stated to the Chairman that maybe he should do that as the Chairman of the Budget Committee.

John Edgerton moved, seconded by Michael Fougere, to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Iris A. Bowden, Recording Secretary