

Minutes
Bar Harbor Town Council/Warrant Committee
Joint Budget Workshop
February 2, 2023

In attendance were **Councilors** Matthew Hochman, Valerie Peacock, Gary Friedmann, Joe Minutolo, Erin Cough, and Jill Goldthwait (remote); and **Warrant Committee members** J. Berberian, B. Chaplin, C. Chappell, C. Cough (remote), K. DesVeaux, M. Kelly, S. Libby, L. Lopez, A. Sasner, E. Salvatore, E. Sassaman, C. Smith, K. St. Germain. Absent excused: B. Reece.

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – 6:31 p.m.

A. **Excused absences**—Mr. Hochman with second by Ms. Cough, moved to excuse Councilors Jeff Dobbs as provided by Town Charter section C-12.B(1)(d). Roll Call Vote:

Minutolo Y
Goldthwait Y
Cough Y
Peacock Y
Hochman Y
Friedmann Y
Motion passed 6-0.

Seth Libby called roll for the Warrant Committee.

II. **SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved that Mr. Minutolo has a conflict of interest on matters pertaining to the Planning Department budget and the Town Manager’s budget due to a personal relationship. Roll Call Vote:

Goldthwait Y
Cough Y
Peacock Y
Hochman Y
Friedmann Y
Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Goldthwait, moved that Ms. Cough has a conflict of interest on matters pertaining to one of the Cooperating Agencies, the Bar Harbor Historical Society, due to current employment by that organization. Roll Call Vote:

Minutolo Y
Goldthwait Y
Peacock Y
Hochman Y
Friedmann Y
Motion passed 5-0.

Recusals in the Warrant Committee were also discussed and voted on by that body: the committee voted 11-2-1 (on a second vote) that Ezra Sassaman has a conflict of interest with respect to portions of the Town Manager's budget due to a personal relationship, and voted 7-6-1 that Caleb Cough has a conflict of interest with respect to portions of the Cooperating Agency budget, due to a family relationship with an employee.

Ms. Graves suggested that while repeat votes at future meetings are not needed, these disclosures should be re-stated at subsequent meetings for the benefit of members of the public not present this evening.

- A. Town Council, Town Manager—Interim Town Manager Sarah Gilbert answered questions about these budget sections.
- B. Town Clerk, Elections and General Assistance—Town Clerk Liz Graves summarized these budget sections and answered questions.
- C. Finance—Finance Director Sarah Gilbert gave an overview of the budget and answered questions. Technology Systems Administrator Steve Cornell participated in the discussion.
- D. Planning—Planning Director Michele Gagnon gave an overview of the budget and answered questions.

III. COOPERATING AGENCY PRESENTATIONS

- A. Bar Harbor Historical Society—Board member Becky Heden gave a presentation.
- B. Maine Family Planning (WIC Program)—WIC program director Jaci Ewing gave a presentation.
- C. Downeast Community Partners—Development Director Sharon Catus presented.
- D. Mount Desert Nursing Association—Development and Communications Coordinator Angela Balacco presented.
- E. Town Hill VIS—Board members Christopher Walsh and Kathy Shultz gave a presentation.

IV. ADJOURNMENT—Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to adjourn at 9:04 p.m. Roll Call Vote:

Minutolo Y
Cough Y
Peacock Y
Hochman Y
Friedmann Y
Motion passed 5-0.

Elizabeth Graves, Town Clerk