

Kingston Municipal Budget Committee Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
March 27, 2024 6:30 PM

Members in attendance:

Stacy Dion, Chair
John Pramberg, Vice Chair
Annemarie Roth, Secretary
Claudine Dias
Barbara Ryan
Pamela Brown
Chuck Hart, Select Board (Budget Committee liaison)

Members absent:

Gary Finerty

Other attendees:

Cindy Mulcahy, Recording Secretary
Rick Russman, resident
Trish Tidd, resident
Laurie Szwed, resident

CALL TO ORDER:

Stacy called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE:

The primary goal of the meeting was to elect members to fill recently vacated positions.

- A motion was made by Chuck to elect Stacy Chair. The motion was seconded by Anne Marie. ***Motion passes 6-0-1.***
- A motion was made by Chuck to elect John Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Claudine. ***Motion passes with all in favor (7-0-0).***
- A motion was made by Stacy to elect Annemarie Secretary. The motion was seconded by Chuck. ***Motion passes with all in favor (7-0-0).***

Additional Member Appointments: There are five open seats on the Budget Committee and two interested parties, although neither had yet put forward a formal letter of intent. It was decided to wait until letters of intent were received before nominating either party. A special meeting may be called for this purpose, or the Town Clerk may be asked to attend the next Budget Committee meeting to swear in the new members.

Prepared by Cindy Mulcahy

Liaisons: Since it is not yet known how many Budget Committee members there will be (which affects the number of departments each member needs to assume), a motion was made by Claudine to hold off on the liaison assignments. The motion was seconded by John. ***Motion passes with all in favor (7-0-0).***

BUDGET COMMITTEE BYLAWS:

The current by-laws state that there must be 12 people on the Budget Committee, and that a quorum equals 7 people. A motion was made by Stacy to amend the numbers by changing the number of board members to read “up to 12” and by removing the 7 in favor of the Robert’s Rules of Order for Voting (50% of members + 1). The motion was seconded by Annemarie.

Motion passes with all in favor (7-0-0).

There will be additional changes to be made to the by-Laws in future meetings.

BUDGET COMMITTEE SCHEDULE:

A motion was made to schedule meetings on the 4th Wednesday of the month by Barb, and Annemarie seconded it. ***Motion passes with all in favor (7-0-0).***

The Budget Committee will meet on April 24 and July 24 to review the progress of the budget before starting its regular session in October (regular schedule to be announced).

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS:

A game plan for a more proactive 2024-2025 session was discussed. Making motions to facilitate change, avoiding hesitancy in questioning spending and promoting more citizen involvement were encouraged.

Some aims of the new Board are to explore the tax cap, which is currently being revamped in the State legislature, and to manage salaries versus growth.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Claudine, and Annemarie seconded it. ***Motion passes with all in favor (7-0-0).***

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.