

Finance Committee

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Finance Committee

Town of Topsham, Maine

Minutes - 24 Feb, '25

Members present:

Gail Eaton (Chair), Mike Labbe (Vice Chair), Jeff Cannon, Ruth Lyons, Robert “Bob” Dodge, Kimberley (Mendall) Mondonedo, Sonya Sampson (Secretary)

Members absent: Bill Thompson, Don Stein

Call to order: 7:02 p.m. by Gail Eaton (Chair)

- Gail asked the committee for feedback from the budget discussions.
 - Ruth commended the departments and managers for a job well done. She spoke her concern for the Library budget and the increasing personnel and programs. Those on the committee shared her concerns.
 - Specific items discussed: Book delivery in community - seemed to committee to be a waste of resources. If people are having to leave library to deliver, more staff required to stay and meet walk-in demands. How is Library determining who gets the outside deliveries/educational resources? What data is being used to determine the need?
 - We acknowledge the Library as a wonderful resource to the community, yet there is concern of “mission creep” within the Library.
 - Is the library duplicating efforts of schools? All the local schools have libraries and beautiful facilities. Might there be more to be gained by sharing resources?
 - Other concerns: no room for additional staff. To continue expanding services may exceed the bounds of the building.
 - What is the MOU between town and the Library? We would like to see it.
 - Is the 85%/15% town obligation a permanent percentage? If the Library is expanding it's mission/vision should the MOU be reconsidered?
 - Original plans for Library was stated to be a community center. Is the newer proposed community center duplicating, or diminishing the original intent for the library?
 - What is the total endowment of the Library?
 - We would like to see the audit of the Library.

The next item discussed the Finance Committee wishes to commend the Fire Chief for his initiative to seek a grant for the Community Paramedic. Talk evolved around putting something on the town sign, or getting coverage through the Town Cryer.

Discussion on TDI joining Bath, Brunswick, Topsham Chamber of Commerce. The cost seemed to be high \$13,000 and the invite seems to have been initiated out of financial need to the Chamber. What benefit will there be to the town by joining?

Kim asked if the future meetings could begin at 6:00 PM, the consensus is yes.

Next meeting: March 11, 2025, at 6 with Board.

Adjourned 7:48 p.m.