

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING COORDINATING COMMITTEE
March 15, 2010

Present: Walter St. Lawrence (2), Matthew Trowbridge (2), Rose Sakach (2), Catherine Shuman (3), Shelley Ross (5), Linda Weston (6), Bob Nerz (7), Don Bates (8), Chuck Beale (9), Tom Richards (9)

Precincts not represented : One and Four

Meeting called to order at 7 PM by C. Beale.

Minutes of February meeting accepted.

No treasurer's report.

Date for pretown meeting will be set at April meeting. It will be approximately one week before the Annual Town Meeting.

Table seating and mike arrangements for Annual Town meeting will be discussed at April meeting.

Polling of voters re. layoffs vs. raises discussed. Several reported no comments. Others reported that benefits are getting out of control and that the public sector is doing far better than the private sector. Members felt we should keep personnel and eliminate raises. Town employees should be requested not to take as many raises. Suggestion made that the Town Administrator address the Coordinating Comm. and explain what it would take to present a budget less than 2 ½%. Since 2012 will be tighter than 2011, other members felt that a cut at this time would not be wise.

Questions arising:

What do people really want? What are they willing to pay for?

How can we revitalize ideas to save money?

Services should be prioritized.

How do we get voters to respond with ideas?

How do we get people on RTM who want to be genuinely involved?

Can we get each new group to accept less than 70% vote on insurance?

Mark Fisher will be invited to next meeting to discuss what can be done and how to do it. This should be open to all budget questions.

B. Nerz reported that local TV will record pretown meeting and replay it before the Annual Town Meeting. No wireless mikes are available and the Selectman's meeting room is the only one set up for public meeting broadcasts.

The current setup at Town Meeting minimizes walk to mikes by participants and is cohesive. If we opt to change the setup, the change should also be cohesive.

L. Weston called DPW re. increases in water and sewer bills. Felt that plans similar to the town should be available to elderly and disabled. Towns should band together on sewer mandates and get an opinion on federal mandates.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM. Next meeting will be April 12, 2010.