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DATE: February 7, 2022
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Town of Belmont
Communications Subcommittee of the Warrant Committee

Minutes: Subcommittee Meeting

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Via Zoom

Committee Attendees: Elizabeth Dionne, Chris Doyle, Anne Helgen, Liz Goss, Paul Rickter, Ellen Schreiber, Laurie Slap

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 p.m.

1. Approve minutes.

There were no minutes to approve.

2. Discussion of draft of Financial Indicators report

Subcommittee members reviewed revisions to the draft report, including added slides re the capital budget, federal and state funding, and status of union contracts.

The Subcommittee will present the draft report at a joint meeting of the Warrant Committee, Select Board, School Committee and Capital Budget Committee on January 26 and ask for feedback and suggested improvements.

Next, the plan is for the Warrant Committee to review any revisions and formally approve the report at an upcoming meeting in early February, and then have it sent out to Town Meeting members.

3. Discussion of other communications projects

The subcommittee discussed the value of reviving the “ARPA Explainer” that Paul Rickter had drafted, given that spending rules have finally been resolved and there are no longer restrictions against using ARPA funds in the operating budget. Paul will review his current draft with Town Administrator Garvin and see if any revisions are necessary.

Liz Goss and Laurie Slap reported that they had completed an initial version of a podcast re free cash. They will share this preliminary version of the podcast with subcommittee members in advance of further discussion at the next meeting.

The group also started to discuss how to get budget information out through social media and determined this topic warranted more time at an upcoming meeting.

4. Next Steps

The next subcommittee meeting will be in early February. Ellen Schreiber will work with all to confirm the date/time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Submitted by Laurie Slap