

Town of Alton
Budget Committee Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
April 28, 2016
Minutes
Approved May 26, 2016

1. **Call to Order 6:00 pm**

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call**

Roger Nelson, Member
John Markland, Selectmen's Representative
Greg Fuller, Member
Terence O'Rourke, Member

4. **Approval of Agenda**

T. O'Rourke motioned to approve the agenda as presented and was seconded R. Nelson with all in favor.

5. **Public Input I**

None
Public Input I closed

6. **Old Business**

A. Meeting Minutes

T. O'Rourke motioned to approve the minutes of January 13, 2016 as presented and was seconded by R. Nelson. The vote was 3-1 in favor with G. Fuller abstaining.

B. Review of Town and School Financials

There was no review of the Town or School financials.

7. **New Business**

A. Election of Chairman/Vice Chairman

T. O'Rourke motioned to nominate R. Nelson as Budget Committee Chairman and was seconded by G. Fuller with all in favor.

R. Nelson motioned to nominate G. Fuller as Budget Committee Vice Chairman and was seconded by T. O'Rourke with all in favor.

B. Interview Candidates for Budget Committee

Andrew Levasseur approached the Committee with his interest in becoming a member of the Budget Committee. He believes he would be a good candidate, wants to help in the Community and wants to take an active role in Alton's future.

Candidate Bob Holt informed the Committee that he moved to Alton last September. He has been involved in town politics in Merrimack and Colebrook for the past 30 years. He believes it is a person's duty to get involved. He provided the Committee with a history of his experience and would like to continue serving the community and believes his experience would be helpful.

David Hershey spoke on his desire to return to the Budget Committee and told the committee about his background informing the Committee that he currently manages a budget of between 5-6 million dollars.

T. O'Rourke motioned to nominate D. Hershey to the Budget Committee and was seconded by J. Markland.

G. Fuller asked if David Hershey had run for the office previously. D. Hershey responded that he had expressed his interest to A. McLeod about his return to the Budget Committee and that he had been unsure of the process.

The vote was 3-1 in favor with no vote being heard or seen from G. Fuller.

T. O'Rourke motioned to nominate Andrew Levasseur to the Budget Committee and was seconded by J. Markland. The motion passed 3-1 in favor with R. Nelson abstaining.

G. Fuller motioned to nominate Bob Holt to the Budget Committee and was seconded by R. Nelson. The vote was 2-2 with J. Markland and R. Nelson voting against.

There was a discussion on the result of the voting.

8. Public Input

None

Public Input Closed

9. Other Business

David Hershey and Andrew Levasseur were elected to the Budget Committee and were sworn in by John Markland.

R. Nelson stated that he has heard a lot from the community about the budget, expenditures and about things going on financially in the town. He has reviewed 5-7 years of financials by line item, by department and he finds that the budget submitted for the past two years have just been a rubber stamped of what they did the prior year. This year he would like to recommend that the Town do their budget as they always have and would like to see two additional things, the same budget with a reduction of 5% and a 10% reduction. He would like to see serious line item changes by department.

J. Markland stated that he would feel better if they came up with a letter as to what they would like to see for the budget proposals. A letter addressed to the Board of Selectmen would be more communicative and allow a better understanding of what the Committee is looking for. R. Nelson stated he would prepare the letter in draft form and E-mail it the Committee members individually so that it can be discussed at the next meeting.

There was a discussion on the best day and time to hold the Budget Committee meetings. It was suggested to hold a meeting on a Saturday so that all of the Departments can present their budgets during one meeting.

The next meeting will be held on May 26, 2016 at 6:30pm at the Alton Town Hall meeting Room.

10. Adjourn

J. Markland motioned to adjourn and was seconded by T. O'Rourke with all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peggy Hawksley".

Peggy Hawksley
Budget Committee Secretary
Approved May 26, 2016