

TOWN OF ALTON
ADVANCED COPY SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE
ALTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
ALTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

ALTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
(Approved 09/11/07)
MAY 8, 2007

Present: Stephen Miller, Virgil MacDonald, Gregory Fuller,
Jeffrey St. Cyr (School Board Rep.) (joined the meeting at 7:10PM),
Peter Bolster (Alton Selectmen Rep.), Krista Argiropolis (Recorder)

Absent: Elizabeth Dominick, Karen Painter

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05PM.

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

G. Fuller motioned to approve the minutes of April 10, 2007. Virgil MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

S. Miller motioned to approve the minutes of September 12, 2006. Virgil MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of two, with two abstaining. (Yes – SM, VM / abstain – GF, PB / absent – ED, KP, JS)

[J. St Cyr entered the meeting at 7:10PM.]

IV. OLD BUSNIESS

There was an open discussion about the Budget Committee's budget. It was felt that the budget would be sufficient but that they would let the Selectmen know if there was going to be a shortfall.

S. Miller spoke about a conference that would be taking place in August that would review the budget process. This would be available to members of the committee who wished to go. He asked that if people were interested in attending that they should contact him.

S. Miller spoke about a reference book he had from the Government Center that listed wages for town employees. He stated that he had the past two-year's editions on file if anyone was interested in them. G. Fuller stated that he felt it wasn't necessary to get a current edition because he felt that the Selectmen should have a copy, since they set the policies and rates, and that the Budget Committee could reference the books at any time.

V. NEW BUSINESS

S. Miller reviewed the April 2007 Actual & Budgeted Expenses & Encumbrance report.

S. Miller will ask the Town Administrator about the following line items:

4130-205	TTF General Expenses	(\$1,044)	Definition of "TTF"
4153-XXX	Legal Fees – General	\$17,254	Possible to project costs?
4144-822	Benefits - Retirement	\$53,861	Question about the impact of recent state retirement changes
4193-202	Assessing - Equipment	(\$104)	Question about the rental car
4194-207	Parks & Rec. - Vehicle	\$5,150	What are the vehicle costs?
4104-314	Parks & Rec. – Heating Oil	\$2,109	General question about cost of oil and gas for the town
4210-020	Police – O/T	(\$248)	What are the projections for the rest of the year?
4312-021	Highway – O/T	(\$8,664)	What are the projections for the rest of the year?
4520-351	Rec. Dept. – Concerts	\$4,370	Budgeted as gross or net?

There was an open discussion about the expenses that the town incurred during the floods a few weeks ago. P. Bolster stated that the money would eventually come from FEMA. He spoke about how the money would be replaced and the process.

There was discussion about the Legal accounts and some of the possible upcoming expenses that would be incurred. P. Bolster spoke about the legal process. S. Miller asked if there was any way to project the costs. There was discussion about the possible time lines but it was felt that this was going to be difficult to project.

G. Fuller briefly discussed the impact of recent laws about the state retirement and how that would impact the town. He requested S. Miller to check into it more.

There was an open discussion about the impact of the recent increases in gas and heating oil on the town budget. S. Miller stated that he could check into this with the Town Administrator to find out what the projections were for the budget outcome, as there were some concerns about if there might be a shortfall.

The Police Department's budget was discussed. V. MacDonald stated he felt they would run short in the summer for overtime. S. Miller stated he could check into this. There was discussion about the impact that a new police chief could have on the budget.

There was discussion about the fuel expenses that each department had and the uncertainty of the fuel market.

G. Fuller asked how much revenue had been taken in from the recyclable solid waste because it was not reflected on the expense account and he felt that there should be accountability shown for this. V. MacDonald stated that he [Scott] would have to go before the Selectmen before he could sell that equipment.

There was a discussion about the Water Department and if they were running in the black or with a deficit. S. Miller stated he would check into this.

Parks and Recreation Department was discussed, including how the concerts were budgeted for. G. Fuller asked if the concerts were budgeted for as gross or as net. S. Miller stated that he would check into this more.

There was a discussion about the Library. G. Fuller asked for S. Miller to find out about the "slush funds" that the Library had and what was done with the money.

There was discussion about the Special Articles and if the pump truck had been picked out yet for purchase.

S. Miller noted that the Recreation Revolving Fund was at (\$2,954.45) and wondered where the money was coming from. He stated that he would check into it further.

S. Miller spoke about the Household Hazardous Waste account 7000, and how that account was used.

The committee completed their review of the April 2007 report. There were no further questions.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

V. MacDonald motioned to adjourn and J. St. Cyr seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, VM, GF, JS, PB / absent – ED, KP)

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Recorder, Public Minutes