

Budget Committee
APPROVED Minutes (9/12/2018)
August 22, 2018, 6:30 PM
Town Hall, Heidke Room
1 Monument Square, Alton, NH 03809

1. **Call to order** by Chairman Nelson at 6:30 pm.

2 **Roll Call**

Present: Roger Nelson, Chairman
Beth Varney, Member
David Hershey, Member
Greg Fuller, Member
Karen Kharitonov, School Board Representative
Reuben Wentworth, Selectmen Representative

Absent: Pat O'Brien, Member

Guests: Heidi Duford and Bob Cullison.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

MOTION by David Hershey to approve the Agenda as presented. Second by Beth Varney No discussion. Motion passes with all in favor.

4. **Approval of Minutes from June 13th meeting**

MOTION by David to approve the Minutes of June 13, 2018 with changes. Second by Greg Fuller. No discussion. Motion passes with 4 in favor. David Hershey and Greg Fuller Abstain.

5. **New Business**

A. **Review PMHS revised Teachers Contract and recommend or not**

Bob Cullison and Heidi Duford here to answer any questions the Budget Committee may have.

B. Cullison stated Barnstead did not approve the contract last March as result comes back to the town of Alton for the Budget Committee to recommend or not recommend. Town of Alton voted on original contract and approved it. The new contract has minor changes.

G. Fuller asked why did Barnstead vote it down?

B. Cullison stated a group of anti-tax people gathered to block police station renovations and kill entire school budget. Special meeting was held.

R. Nelson noted August 21 checklist was supposed to be posted.

B. Cullison noted it will be posted this Saturday.

R. Nelson noted the Budget Committee will be required to be at the deliberative session. General discussion on a public hearing is a deliberative session. September 17 is the date set although the date may change. To be held at Prospect Mountain High School at 7 pm.

K. Kharitonov noted there will be an Alton School Board special election at PMHS, on October 15 from 7 am -7 pm.

MOTION by R. Nelson that the Budget Committee recommend Warrant Article I as stipulated in the Proposed Warrant Article of the Alton School District. Second by D. Hershey. General discussion on amounts. Discussion on voting on one-year appropriation on a 3-year contract. Noted Year 2 and 3 have to come back for recommendation. Motion passes by a vote of 6-0.

B. Review of Town and school financials. Not present. No discussion.

Discussion from last meeting where Reuben distributed encumbrances. Gave a copy to G. Fuller not at the last meeting.

R. Nelson state he would like the Budget Committee to submit operating budget.

There was a question on D. Hershey's suggestion regarding his offer to solicit some other towns to combine information to help set a benchmark for setting budget figures. D. Hershey met with the Town Computer Technician and noted he needed resources to work on this and the Town Manager has declined this. This would include creating an Excel spreadsheet and have the other towns utilized this as well. Cost for set up is approx. \$1500 per year. Town manager said we don't have this money in the budget.

R. Nelson had presented the Budget Committee budget and showed that monies can be cut back on budgets without affecting their operations. R. Nelson is hesitant to add this to the Budget Committee budget.

General discussion, committee feels they should include this in the Budget Committee budget.

D. Hershey asked if some towns should be asked in advance.

R. Nelson suggested working through each towns Budget Committees.

D. Hershey suggested gathering information could either be a website or through email.

R. Nelson asked D. Hershey to look further into this and ask some other towns to participate and report at the next meeting of any interest.

D. Hershey asked for suggestions of other towns. Wolfboro, Gilford, New Durham,

R. Wentworth suggested look at towns with similar population. We have a highway department and most towns have public works department. Wakefield, Farmington, not Gilford as they have a fulltime fire department. Similar in property assessments.

D. Hershey feels using other towns as well to establish a benchmark.

General discussion on town comparisons.

R. Nelson suggested contact 5 to begin with.

K. Kharitonov suggested Meredith.

Farmington, Meredith, Milton, Laconia, Gilford, Tuftonboro, Moultonboro, Center Harbor were all suggested.

NOTE; add this discussion for the next meeting.

6. **Set meeting Dates.**

9/11/18 Election.

9/17/18 Deliberative session.

Next Budget Committee meeting on September 12, 2018, 6:30 pm, Town Hall.

Budget Committee meeting on October 10, 2018, 6:30 pm, Town Hall.

7. **Public input.** None seen or heard. Public Input closed.

8. **Other business.**

General discussion regarding what has been encumbered and surplus spending.

General discussion on standardized contracts and language. Suggestion to develop procurement contracts.

9. **Meeting adjourned** at 7:30 p.m. MOTION by R. Nelson to adjourn. Motion passes with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Schaeffner, Recording Secretary

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