

**Town of Alton**

**Budget Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes**

**DRAFT**

**November 9, 2005**

**Present:** Stephen Miller; William Curtin; Elizabeth Dominick; Laurie Boyce;  
Steven McMahon (Selectmen's Rep.); Virgil MacDonald; Terri Noyes (ACS Board Rep.),  
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator;  
Members of the Public

**Absent:** Krista Argiropolis, Secretary

**I. Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm.

**II. Roll Call**

Ms. Argiropolis was unable to attend but had provided a recorder to capture the meeting.

**III. Receipt Of Correspondence**

The financial report for the last month from PMHS were received.

The books for the proposed budget for Alton Central School FY '07-'08 are available for committee members to take with them after the meeting.

**IV. Future Meetings**

The ACS Board will meet with the Alton Budget Committee on 12/7, 12/14, and 12/21 to review the school budget. Mrs. Boyce stated she could not attend any of the dates. Mr. Curtin will be Mrs. Boyce's alternate.

**V. Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 2, 2006**

The meeting minutes for November 2, 2006 were reviewed. Mrs. Boyce motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed with three abstentions. (yes – SM, LB, WC, LD / abstain – TN, VM, SMC)

There was some question if there was a meeting on November 6, 2006. There was no meeting.

Ms. Noyes asked to add something to the agenda.

**VI. Gilman Library – Holly Brown**

The proposed budget for the Gilman Library was presented by Holly Brown. The Committee reviewed the budget by each line item. There was a discussion about the salaries. There was a discussion about the computers in the Library. There are four computers available for internet use, and separate computers available for the card catalogue. They are asking for two new computers to replace two of the old computers that are currently providing internet access to the public. The old computers would be used for the card catalog. There is a total of ten network computers.

**VII. Grounds and Maintenance – Kellie Troendel**

Kellie Troendel, Director, presented the proposed budget for the Grounds and Maintenance for FY '07. The Committee reviewed the budget by each line item. There was some discussion about the costs incurred by the maintenance for the public rest rooms that are provided for by the Grounds and Maintenance department.

The CIP funding requests were presented. There are two items: The Jones Field Green Monster Fence at \$13,600 and a pickup truck at \$32,800. All areas were felt to be covered.

**VIII. Recess**

Mr. Miller motioned to recess for 10 minutes and Mr. McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, SMc, TN, ED, VM)

**IX. Budget Committee's Vote on Proposed Budgets Presented**

**Gilman Library (4550):**

Mr. McMahon motioned to increase the proposed budget line item for Books and Materials (4550-135; \$8,500) to 10,000 and Mr. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed with two abstentions (yes – LB, WC, LD VM, SMc / abstain – TN, SM)

[Recorded session ends - then picks up again during the Grounds and Maintenance session]

**Grounds and Maintenance (4194):**

\_\_\_\_\_ motioned to increase the proposed budget line item for Jones Field (4194-599; \$3,284) to \$10,000 and \_\_\_\_\_ seconded the motion. The motion failed. (yes – SM / no - WC, LB, SMc, TN, ED, VM)

Mr. Miller motioned to reduce the proposed budget line item for Railroad Square Park (4194-759; \$8,532) by \$156 and Ms. Dominick seconded the motion. The motion passed (yes – SM WC, LB, TN, ED, VM / no - SMc)

Ms. Noyce motioned to accept the amended proposed budget for Grounds and Maintenance (4194) at \$189,721 and Mr. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote (SM WC, LB, TN, ED, VM, SMc)

**X. Public Input**

John \_\_\_\_\_, a former government employee, spoke about issues he had about the Community Action. He presented letters he had received by Judd Gregg and Community Action. He stated he spoke with the Selectmen and that no one paid the Community Action salaries. He felt strongly that Alton should not pay any money to Community Action/Meals on Wheels.

**XI. Old Business**

Ms. Noyes asked why the sealed minutes were not approved. Mr. Miller responded that they would be doing that later in the meeting.

Ms. Noyes submitted an email from 11/7/06 to be placed on record with the meeting meetings.

Ms. Noyes presented emails she had since June 2006 with Mr. Miller. The emails were her messages to him about her inability to attend and included his response emails to her. She presented the Committee with copies of The Right to Know Law and the Municipal Budget Act for their reference. Ms. Noyes stated that she was in contact with Mr. Miller about her absences and that he never indicated she was unexcused. There was discussion about the communication between Ms. Noyes and Mr. Miller.

Mr. Miller reviewed the email from Ms. Noyes on 1/7/06. He stated that in reference to the time that meeting minutes are to be made public, he had received information from Jamie Dow at the DRA that it should be 120 hours but that he had received documentation from Ms. Argiropolis that public minutes should be available in 144 hours. Mr. Miller stated he had suggested a non-public session to discuss Ms. Noyes attendance because he did not expect her to return to the Committee based on a remark she had made at a previous meeting. Mr. Miller stated that he had not heard anything about sealed non-public minutes being submitted to the public within 72 hours of the meeting.

There was a discussion about the expectations of attendance for elected members and ex-officio member of the Committee. Mr. Miller stated he did not excuse her from any meeting. Ms. Noyes stated that she felt that Mr. Miller's issue was a personal issue with her and she was not sure why.

Mr. Miller motioned for a recess. There was no second.

Ms. Noyes stated that she made a comment on 10/26/06, in reference to Mr. Miller's statement about wanting Committee members present in the future, was that, "I won't be here." She stated that was a fact and it was not disrespectful, as she was assigned to the Committee for the duration of one year only.

Mr. Miller presented the non-public minutes from November 2, 2006. The Committee reviewed the minutes. Ms. Noyes stated that she had contacted her alternate each time she could not attend a meeting, but that her alternate had other civic obligations that she had to meet. She stated she had spoken with Dan LaCroix, who had offered to be the alternate but if he could not come there was nothing she could do about it.

Mr. Curtin motioned that based on the information provided to the Committee that night that they apologize to Ms. Noyes, and move forward as a Committee to complete the review and presentation of the Budget. Mr. Miller and Ms. Noyes discussed the legitimacy of her absences. It was the consensus of the Committee that the motion should be addressed. Ms. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of seven to one. (no – SM / yes - WC, LB, SMc, TN, ED, VM)

Ms. Noyes motioned to unseal the two sets of non-public meeting minutes of 10/31/06 and 11/02/06 and Ms. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of six with one abstention. (SM, WC, LB, TN, ED, VM / abstain - SMc)

**XII. Adjournment**

Mr. Curtin motioned to adjourn and Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. T The motion passed by a unanimous vote (SM WC, LB, TN, ED, VM, SMC) The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectively Submitted,

Krista A. Argiropolis  
Keeper and Transcriber of Minutes