

**Budget Committee**  
**APPROVED MINUTES - (Approved 12/5/2019)**  
**November 21, 2019 @ 6:30 PM**  
**Alton Town Hall**  
**1 Monument Square, Alton, NH 03809**

1. Call to order at 6:30 pm by Chairman O'Brien.

2. Roll Call

Present:

Patrick O'Brien, Chairman  
Beth Varney, Member  
Bob Holt, Member  
David Hershey, Member  
Kristie Hikel, School Board Representative (arrived at 6:33 pm)  
Paul LaRochelle, Selectmen Representative

Others Present:

Liz Dione, Town Administrator  
Laura Parker, Town Finance Administrator

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION by D. Hershey to approve the Agenda as presented. Second by B. Varney. No discussion.  
Motion passes with all in favor (6-0).

4. New Business

A. Review Department Budgets

1. Parks and Recreation Department - Kelly Troendle, Parks and Recreation Director

No Major changes in budget presented

Line 015, what is anticipated for next year. Did not have a full staff last year and not all expended. Hiring issues.

Motion by D. Hershey to accept and approve the budget for Parks and Recreation. Second by B. Varney. No discussion. Motion passes with all in favor (6-0).

2. Grounds and Maintenance Department - Kelly Troendle, Grounds and Maintenance Director

K. Troendle - added 11 weeks to grounds and maintenance labor. Stayed below 5 % cap.

Discussion on items that are very much needed B. Varney increase in town hall electricity - due to new heating system and fuel has increased. Discussion on the new H-Vac system and having to use the boiler to supplement lack of heat on very cold days. B. Holt asked on line 599 Jones Field Improvements noting \$2000 left in account now. K. Troendle noted they did not spend some items due to being over on some other lines. Line 549 West Alton Community Center line reduced to \$1 for maintenance. K. Troendle noted this building is not being used and do not have staff to clean it. Line 703 Electric line for West Alton Community Center. Line 799 Bay Bridge light - over spent. This past year had unexpected repairs with lights and receptacles.

Line 999 over spent on this line. Veteran's memorial flag pole with plaques that were weathered that needed to be repair and other repairs.

Motion to D. Hershey to accept and approve the budget for Grounds and Maintenance. Second by B. Varney. No discussion. Motion passes with all in favor (6-0).

3. Cemetery Department = Kelly Troendle, Cemetery Director.

Increases for staff wages. Wage increase for cemetery sexton. Increase in portable toilet, fertilizer and weed control. Decreased postage, mileage, electricity, water, building fuel. The Cemetery Trust Fund does not support the budget. Trust fund covers property land, columbarium, equipment purchased. This budget covers 9 cemeteries that the town maintains. The Cemetery trustees have stated that wages cannot be used from the trust fund.

MOTION by K. Hikel to accept and approve the budget for Cemetery. Second by D. Hershey. Discussion. D. Hershey would like to have a representative of the cemetery of the trust fund to speak with the Budget Committee with regard to what can be spent and reserved and also provide a copy of the trust fund agreement prior to meeting. No further discussion. Motion passes with all in favor (6-0).

4. School Department - ACS Pam Stiles, Superintendent and Karen Kharitonov School Board Chair  
P. Stiles noted coming in 2% lower in last years budget. Uptick in enrollment. Additional 28 students and asking for another teacher. Number of students with special ed and medical needs and hire 2 additional para educations. Heath and dental are up and utilities are up. Items on hold due to bond payment due. Skyjack and work truck needed. Tech maintenance plan. Funds that are giving back. Warrant articles are being presented. Cafeteria upgrade, Revenues down next year. Medicaid funding is down. Alton Central K-8 school of the year for State of NH. D. Hershey asked why is Medicaid paid to school. Families that qualified can be reimbursed for special services. Must be signed off by a physician.  
Pam MacDonald special education director explained to the process on how the services are determined as billable or not.  
P. LaRoche asked how many para educators - 15.5 and looking for 2 more. Some paras work one on one and some work with a small group of children (4-6), some work with preschool and children on the playground. 91 special needs students at ACS.  
D. Hershey - why is fuel up. P. MacDonald noted up due to rates.  
P. Stiles noted bond is paid off.  
Sean Asdot Facilities director.  
D. Hershey asked on decision on why lease over purchase. S. Asdot noted purchasing a used jack. With regard to the truck it is difficult get a lease on a truck that is used for plowing. P. Stiles noted encouraged to look into a municipal lease which is usually different than a personal lease.  
B. Holt commented on the town leases for the highway department. B Holt complimented the Superintendent and School Board on their format and presentation. PMHS 4,000,000. Joint Maintenance Agreement and Prospect Mountain High School are one in the same. Barnstead and Alton are paying tuition into this. Supt. at \$89,320 and a Principal and Asst Principal \$176,760. Noted Superintendent is part time 32 hours. 440 students. State average is \$18,000 per student.  
D. Hershey asked about transportation. Noted that is under the PMHS.  
MOTION by D. Hershey to accept but not approve the budget for Alton Central School. Second by B. Holt. No discussion. Motion passes with all in favor (6-0).

Brief break at 7:30 pm

Resume at 7:40 pm

5. Old Business

- A. Fill-in Member Discussion and Appointment - Discussion.

MOTION by P. O'Brien to bring in John Markland as the fill in position that expires at the end of this term. Second by K. Hikel. No discussion. Motion passes with all in favor (6-0).

J. Markland spoke as to why he would like to be involved with the Budget Committee. J. Markland noted he has been a Selectmen for several years, previously been on Alton Budget Committee. Has no axe to grind, good researcher, only agenda is wish there is some way to reduce warrant articles.

6. Approval of Minutes of November 13, 2019

MOTION by K. Hikel to approve the Minutes of November 13, 2019 as presented. Second by P. Obrien. No discussion. Motion tabled. Not enough votes.

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

8. Other Business (if necessary). None presented.

9. Adjournment - MOTION by B. Holt to adjourn at 7:50 pm. Second by B. Varney. No discussion. Motion passes with all in favor (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Schaeffner, Recording Secretary