

Budget Committee Meeting
APPROVED Minutes (Approved 12/13/2018)
November 29, 2018 @ 6:30 PM
Alton Town Hall
1 Monument Square, Alton, NH 03809

1. Call to order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present: Roger Nelson, Chairman

Greg Fuller, Member

Patrick O'Brien, Member

David Hershey, Member

Beth Varney, Member

K. Kharitonov, School Board Member

John Markland, Selectmen Representative

Others Present:

Liz Dione, Town Administrator

Troy Neff, Town Finance Administrator

4. Approval of Agenda

MOTION by G. Fuller to accept the Agenda as presented. Second by D. Hershey. No discussion. Motion passes with all in favor.

5. Approval of Minutes if November 8, 2018.

MOTION by P. O'Brien to approve the Minutes of November 8, 2018 as presented. Second by G. Fuller. No discussion. Motion passes with all in favor.

6. New Business

Question on numbers for Water Department.

T. Neff suggest tracking what has been spent.

R. Nelson asked where are some of the amounts reflected in the budget from this report. And are the budgets correct for what they put forth.

P. O'Brien stated he did question the library amounts.

R. Nelson asked if Water Department budget in each department are reflective of what they are paying.

L. Dione stated Recreation Budget is \$450, paid over \$450 already this year.

D. Hershey asked if based on consumption or metered.

P. O'Brien stated no meters - flat rate. Metered is based on usage. Noted there is a plan in place to place meters. Currently 60 homes without meters. Meters are owned by the Water Department.

R. Nelson noted IT Dept - increase on payroll line. Increased hours?

L. Dione stated currently it at 32 hours per week. Increase is for 40 full time. She will look into the increase.

a) General Administration (4130)

R. Nelson Line 0155 6.7 increase?

L. Dione justification - consultant line added for \$2000.

T. Neff noted BOS secretary increase cola and merit.

R. Nelson Line 029 - is this enough?

L. Dione - yes.

R. Nelson Line 110 meeting and confs.

L. Dione - justification shows all for different purpose. Line 111 are for dues and fees. Monthly training meetings, expos, and conference for line 110.

D. Hershey any thought given to skipping every other year.

L. Dione added some you cannot skip as these bring members attending up to date on current changes with classes, etc.

R. Nelson line 181 printing and signs.

L. Dione \$2500 added to have the town report printed by a printing company. In the past the cost is more in-house vs \$2500 for a printing company. Staff time, color copy charges. Done more toward the end of the year. 2 in house persons work on this town report. Day to day regular duties get put on hold.

K. Kharitonov asked numbers of circulation.

L. Dione 750 so far.

D. Hershey asked if it is an obligation to provide physical copies.

L. Dione yes.

b) Benefits (4155)

R. Nelson health and dental. Health up 9.8 is this a deductible.

L. Dione yes, a high deduction - single \$2000, family plan \$9000, town pays a portion.

T. Neff noted pays on a tier basis. \$2250 is the full deductible exposure .

L. Dione stated did not budget for the full exposure amount - some employees do not use the benefits to the full extent. All employees have a deductible plan. Low premium rates due to high deductible rates.

T. Neff Insurance paid based on the hours worked. Full time ie. Single monthly \$443.02, employee pays \$15 per month.

General discussion on premiums and contributions of employees.

c) Insurance (4196)

R. Nelson increase in Workers' Comp - due to injuries

General discussion on Workers' Comp coverage.

d) Legal (4153)

R. Nelson - line 185.

L. Dione - violations and misdemeanors.

e) Gilman Museum (4575)

No questions.

f) School Budgets

Laurie Verville, Business Administrator

Pamela Stiles, Superintendent

R. Nelson asked how many teachers today vs 5 years ago

P. Stiles currently teachers 43. students 428, non teachers 54,

R. Nelson would like information from 5 years ago before he approves the budget.

D. Hershey suggested a trend 4, 3, 2, years.

R. Nelson how much returned to the school.

L. Verville \$383,000.

G. Fuller asked end of fiscal year before encumbrance.

L. Verville stated add \$200,000.

G. Fuller asked is there a list for encumbrances, to see what the gross was and what the encumbrance was spent on.

R. Nelson proposed a flat budget last year - how did it get to 11% increase on tax bill

Discussion on warrant articles vs including in budget

Discussion of proposed warrants that are in draft still to go before the school board.

R. Nelson stated December 19 will be the last day to review any changes or proposals.

General discussion on the high increase of the bottom line number this year.

Email data requested by middle next week to Mary Jarvis.

Next Wednesday Warrant article discussion.

7. Public Input

Loring Carr

Last year several lawsuit of default budgets from other towns. There are new state rulings on default budgets and encourage board to check into this.

Ruling you can now ask questions on default budget.

Kharitonov stated new rulings on school budget as well.

P. Stiles stated page in book with changes to the default law.

D. Hershey suggested to get a gathering of information for the default new. M. Jarvis to put together to email the board.

General discussion default budget and the surplus from previous year being included in future planning. History of excessive surplus.

Loring Carr - suggested to have DRA to come meet with the Board maybe next year. Dept of Revenue and Administration. D. Hershey will call to follow-up.

Next wed. 12/5 and following Thurs 12/13.

K. Kharitonov thanked the school board staff and administration for attending the meeting tonight.

8. Old Business. None.

9. Other Business. None.

10. Adjourn at 8 p.m. MOTION by R. Nelson to adjourn at 8 pm. Second by G. Fuller. No discussion. Motion passes with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Schaeffner, Recording Secretary