

Town of Alton
Budget Committee Meeting
December 1, 2011

1. Call to Order – 6:00 pm

2. Roll Call

M. DeCoff, Chair

S Miller, Vice Chair

B. Howard, Member

L. Tilly Member

V. MacDonald, Member

L. Carr, Selectmen's Representative

L. Goosums, School Board Representative

Other Attendees:

R. Bailey, Town Administrator

S. Lane, Cemetery

R. Howard, Cemetery

K. Holt, Alton Central School Superintendent

K. Oblenes, Business Manager, Alton Central School

P. Hawksley, Budget Committee Secretary

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Agenda

Remove CIP

Add to Old Business received answer from counsel regarding high school.

Motion by L. Carr to accept agenda as amended.

All in favor.

5. Minutes, from November 10th and the minutes from the 17th. Tabled and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

6. Old Business

S. Miller requested legal opinion from J. Sessler concerning the Prospect Mountain JMA Budget Committee meeting concerning whether or not it is legal to appoint an alternate in place of somebody who can't make an individual meeting. S. Miller, I have seen the original draft and will have the it in hand tomorrow, the draft in fact stated we are entitled to have an alternate on each side because that would be the intent of the JMA to have an equal vote on each side should not be in fact disenfranchised because due to an act of God, somebody passed away, voted out of office, sick, or anything of that nature. It is a long involved opinion and I would like to make a motion to have M. DeCoff as an alternate to the Prospect Mountain JMA Committee. B. Howard Seconds.

L. Carr will amend it. The chairman of Alton JMA Committee shall appoint interim as needed.

S. Miller seconds.

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, V. MacDonald Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, L. Carr Yes, B. Howard Yes
Motion Passed 6 - 0

Meeting schedule confirmed for December 6, 2011.

Discussion on looking at the CIPs. The Budget Committee does not have any say or vote on the CIPs. R. Bailey will provide the committee with copies for informational purposes.

M. DeCoff asked when he will receive the information on the positions.

R. Bailey asked about the schedule. Another meeting will be scheduled for December 8, 2011. R. Bailey will repost. R. Bailey stated thought should be given to getting notices out for the public hearing and asked if the dates were still good. The public hearing is scheduled for January 3, 2011. School date is scheduled for January 10, 2011. S. Miller stated that would be up to the school. They may want to post a possible meeting. M. DeCoff noted we haven't voted on any of the school items yet. R. Bailey will get the public hearing notices ready and put them in the paper.

7. New Business
Cemetery Review, Warrant Article Review

Cemetery

L. Carr distributed new proposal from the Selectmen for Buildings and Grounds and Cemetery.

Cemetery

L. Carr provided S. Lane with the Selectmen's new proposal.

S. Lane asked if the Cemetery caretaker is only being allowed 10,000 a year. The same as the part time wage.

M. DeCoff stated they added it to the part time wages at Parks and Rec.

L. Carr the selectmen are trying to streamline this, we think you are having double services by having a person over at the cemetery mowing and doing the same at the Parks and Recs. What we are proposing is that we move the mowing and the hours over to the Parks and Recs department, Grounds and Maintenance. They can do the mowing and upkeep over the summer time, the Cemetery can keep the part time person to do the incidentals, weed whacking, etc. during the summer time. B. Howard asked then we would have an employee from the Buildings and Grounds under the guidance of the Cemetery trustees because it is up to the Cemetery Trustees to oversee the work done in the cemetery. L. Carr said I think we can work it out that when they need the grounds mowed have the Buildings and Grounds people and if they want to send two guys over there that gives them flexibility.

Estimated savings, continue with salary until April, passed by the voters, benefits would be 48,000, we go with the part time person from Buildings and Grounds we are averaging about 15,164, that is a savings of 33,444.00. The 10,655 would be up to April. V. MacDonald stated that it would be even more savings because you wouldn't be buying two tractors, two mowers. B. Howard stated, we already have them. V. MacDonald stated but they would have to be replaced from time to time and we've got the commercial tractors down there, we've got the Buildings and Ground unit.

R. Howard stated the town hasn't bought anything for the Cemetery. Anything purchased with that money cannot be used by the town.

S. Miller asked does the town have the authority to eliminate 1 full person. L. Carr stated sure, the voters can do it. S. Miller stated the voters can do it by money, can the selectmen effectively [inaudible].

R. Howard stated the Buildings and Ground budget will increase by 75,000, 2011 actual 148639. L. Carr stated no. R. Howard stated the Selectmen's proposal 227,408. S. Lane stated so what you are doing is shifting [inaudible] so they have to hire more people. V. MacDonald stated you can't go by the actual because that was done in August. M. DeCoff stated that is what has been spent. S. Miller asked is this under the assumption that Mark is not coming back? L. Carr responded no. S. Miller asked if he would be fired. L. Carr stated no. A position is available at the highway department that is open now. He will be offered that position. V. MacDonald stated Mark has been with us for a long time. S. Miller stated he just wanted to know what was going on.

S. Lane asked if she could be given a reason for this. L. Carr stated streamline, savings, full time salary vs. part time Buildings and Ground 7/12 of a position, saving 33,000 this year, next year savings would be 48,000. B. Howard asked why do you have salary full time as 9/12. R. Howard asked who will lay out the graves. L. Carr stated you people can lay out the graves and we can get Ken Roberts to come over and let one of his men dig it. Hasn't this happened in the past? V. MacDonald stated he did it for years. S. Lane stated yes he did but with her overseeing it. We had to mark it out for him. B. Howard stated that is a shrewd way to get a big bang for your buck because now you have Cemetery trustees it's not there job description to be there and for them to leave their full time job to go volunteer for the town? The Cemetery Trustees don't get paid to do that. They don't get paid to mark and over see digging of holes. V. MacDonald stated they are paid to oversee any type of work. That is in the bylaw. R. Howard stated they are not paid to physically do the work, but to oversee it. V. MacDonald stated you will have to train your part time person to do it. S. Lane stated what happened to the fact that the Cemetery Trustees are in charge of the Cemetery. You are taking all of the power from the Cemetery Trustees. V. MacDonald stated no we are not, we are not taking any power from you. It states that the Cemetery Trustees oversee the work in the Cemetery. It doesn't say anything about the hiring or firing. S. Lane stated it is in the RSA that the Cemetery Trustees do the hiring. S. Lane so you are taking that power away from the Cemetery Trustees. V. MacDonald commented I read that the Cemetery Trustees oversee the work done in the cemetery. S. Lane stated you are expecting us to work with people who are hired by somebody else. It clearly states that we do the hiring. L. Carr stated if you sub out the mowing it would be the same scenario as subbing out the mowing. V. MacDonald it is going to give the trust fund time to build back up. S. Lane stated we would be pricing it and we would be doing the subbing out, the hiring. Kelly hires her

people and you send them over to us and then they are going to work for us. So what you are telling us is that Kelly has people over there that don't have enough work to do. L. Carr stated no I'm not. S. Lane stated instead of making theirs part time you are making ours part time. S. Lane stated you are adding money to her so she can hire somebody else. L Carr stated yes for 7/12 a year to do the mowing over there and work around the town.

S. Lane stated so you would rather have her hire somebody then leave us with our full time employee. L. Carr stated your proposal is for a full time person. We first proposed a 7/12 and you were totally against it. The first meeting we had you said you would come back and try to work with us and then you wouldn't meet with us. Then you came and gave us the 12,000 additional cost you added another 12,000 into your budget. You haven't come and asked for any compromise here. S. Lane stated is that the problem we haven't come to the selectmen to have them control the cemetery. L. Carr stated I don't think this has anything to do with control. We are trying to save money for the taxpayers and try to make those funds last longer. R. Howard those funds have been subsidizing the taxpayers for the past 20 years and right now we need two people in there raking leaves, picking all the adornments off. V. MacDonald asked do we have a part time person doing it now. R. Howard stated no. V. MacDonald stated well you have a person out sick, have you replaced him. R. Howard stated we can't we don't have the money in the budget. V. MacDonald stated because the trust fund isn't producing. S. Lane stated no because we have to pay him. We would go over our bottom line if we did. We still have to pay Mark he is out on sick leave. S. Miller stated that's a good reason why the town should have control of that. They have the people in the Highway Department also in Parks and Recs. V. MacDonald stated sick leave should have had a budget built up on that. Like the town and the school does. You have to plan on anybody getting sick if you have to pay them for 6 months then that should have been budgeted in there and you should have been able to put somebody in there to take care of the cemetery.

S. Lane stated we have help from some of the other departments but they have their own departments to handle too.

S. Miller makes motion to accept budget as presented by selectmen for 50,980.

V. MacDonald seconds

Discussion: V. MacDonald commends the selectmen for trying to streamline the departments. B. Howard stated different departments you are talking one department. It wreaks of punishment, it really does, it is political. L. Carr stated this has been an issue on the table for years. The money was running out. V. MacDonald opportunity for the trust fund to re-build itself. L. Carr all of a sudden they drop an 80,000 bill on us. S. Miller my reasoning of the approximate cost of 65,000 a year that costs for the cemetery the trust fund will last approximately 5-6 years maximum. Either we make the decision now or next year or the year after that, I guarantee you that by year 5 ½ its going to be made and nobody is going to have a say about it. It is going to go over to the town no matter what happens. S. Lane stated are you talking about the townspeople. Last year you put a warrant article out, the warrant article said do you want the town to take over the cemetery and the answer was no. S. Miller remarked I also understand the politics that went on to bring that to a vote. V. MacDonald that was to let people know what goes on, not just over there but everywhere.

B. Howard commented if the town is going to take over for the cemetery, why not get rid of all the department heads and let the selectmen run every department. Basically that is what it seems like. S. Miller stated he is not adverse to having the town look at the Water Department. I don't know why we have to have a separate Water Department.

L. Goosums why are you saying in 5 years it will be the Selectmen's anyhow. S. Miller responded if you take a look at the total amount in the trust and take a look at the net cost on a yearly basis, which is somewhere, around 65,000 divide that into the trust figure, you only have 5 or 6 years down the road. L. Goosums stated so no money ever gets put back in the trust. S. Miller responded no it is net out. The net income is less than the net expenses. It is just a matter of time. The interest rate is at 1 or 2%.

S. Lane because the cemetery had a trust fund and operating on the trust fund all these years, every other department in this town hasn't had a trust fund and the taxpayers have been picking up the tab for them and nobody is trying to streamline them.

S. Miller stated if you attend any of these budget hearings I think I recommend significant cuts in every single one. S. Lane stated not to the percentage of hours. The Highway Department has a million dollar budget, the Police department has a million dollar budget. The selectmen cut 20,000 out of ours. That is a 103,000 budget and they cut 20,000. I bet they didn't cut 20,000 out of the million dollar one. This makes sense to all of you. S. Miller stated if you can explain how the math doesn't make sense we're going to save 48,000 then you can change my opinion. B. Howard stated I don't think that is true. We are going to end up paying overtime. We are already paying a ton of overtime in Buildings and Grounds what we talked about when we reviewed the budget. They hired people to work weekends to pay them overtime. V. MacDonald stated because they have to clean the bay. B. Howard responded then why don't they just hire weekend help. Instead of hiring them as overtime. That has been going on for how long.

S. Lane stated there is no way the town can take this over without going to the taxpayers. M. DeCoff stated the town is not taking it over. S. Miller you don't understand, one day when you have no money and it is 5-6 years or 7 years down the road and there is zero in the trust fund, there is not even a discussion. R. Howard stated, this year there is no money left. It is gone. The taxpayers have benefited by over a million dollars. S. Miller stated absolutely. It was absolutely right for the time. R. Howard stated you have to understand there are legal implications here because these cemeteries Old Riverside, New Riverside, Hay, Strafford, Crocket and West Alton Cemeteries require maintenance. S. Miller stated as a matter of fact the original trust states 6 cemeteries I think you are only talking about 3 or 4. The original trust generated a fund for 6 individual cemeteries and it said only the money in those funds can be used for those cemeteries. R. Howard stated no it is for the individual lots where people put money into the trust. What the town did was go to the courts and said we want to use the money in the trust fund for everybody's lots. B. Howard stated because of that it forced them to use all of the money. There have always been 6. S. Miller asked are you maintaining 6 or 4. R. Howard there are actually 9. S. Miller each at the same level as the other.

R. Howard stated there are 6 that have perpetual care funds. V. MacDonald stated that is just when somebody calls you. S. Lane said no. R. Howard stated we are supposed to be spending individual money on individual lots in these individual cemeteries. S. Lane stated they go and they maintain those cemeteries. R. Howard we maintain to some degree when Mark has time to do it. S. Miller stated let me suggest something to you Mark can work somewhere between 40-70 hours a week. If there is a demand for perpetual care for all of these cemeteries then something in excess of 40, 50 or 60 hours, but the Highway and Parks and Grounds has unlimited labor to take up that slack to make sure the perpetual care is taken care of. B. Howard stated but at overtime. R. Howard so you are telling us that these departments have all this extra time to pay these employees to do nothing. S. Miller responded to ask the Selectmen. R. Howard stated is that what you are saying Steve that we have all these employees in town who sit around and do nothing. S. Miller response was not at all. S. Miller stated that it is all priority. No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and it is entirely possible that before they do number 5 they have to do something over in the Cemetery and if number 5 doesn't get done it is not the end of the world. B. Howard stated so what you are going to do is go backward. Every time you pull someone from another department to go over there something else is not going to get done. The Highway Department as an example they are just now getting caught up after years and years of not doing and keeping up with things. Look at the condition of our town buildings because of deferred maintenance Buildings and Grounds all of a sudden are just going to stop and make the Cemetery a priority and then other things are going to backslide. S. Miller stated to ask the Selectmen. V. MacDonald stated the catch-up is the rebuilding of the roads.

S. Lane there is an RSA 289:4 on maintenance; every municipality shall raise and appropriate sufficient funds by tax basin or otherwise to provide for the suitable care and maintenance of the municipal cemeteries within its boundaries which are not otherwise provided for and to provide and maintain all such cemeteries a good and sufficient fence with necessary gate. Every Municipality shall raise and appropriate funds annually to provide for the suitable care and maintenance of deserted burial grounds. We don't even do that. S. Miller stated maybe now we can. S. Lane stated we will have to raise more money and then who is going to do it.

R. Howard would like an answer, if the cemetery trustees state something has to be done, will it get done or are we going to be put to the bottom of the list If we come up with a daily schedule for someone for turf and Grounds. S. Miller I think the selectmen will answer that. R. Howard stated we will keep one person busy most of the summer. L. Carr stated that is why we are putting in the 7/12. S. Lane stated that is why you are hiring another person over there to do it. L. Carr stated for 7/12 a year, part time not for 42,000 a year. We are estimating 18,000. Your person your talking 42,000 that is why there is a savings.

Your paying 42,000 a year to mow the grass and sit 3 months of the year looking at the snow. S. Lane asked what are you basing that on. Have you gone over there to see if he is working. Have you ever. L. Carr stated in the middle of winter, I haven't seen him mow the grass in the winter. I haven't seen any weed whacking in the winter. S. Lane have you seen the snow removal. L. Carr stated one plow, we'll absorb that. S. Lane have you seen the equipment that has been fixed in the winter. L. Carr stated yes. I heard about most of his year was taken up doing a brake job

two years ago. Could have done at the town shed in about 3 hours. B. Howard and who gave you that information. L. Carr stated Shirley did. S. Lane stated I told you what? L. Carr you made a whole list out and the big thing was the brake job. L. Carr stated it is a 3 or 4-hour job. Your talking about somebody for 3 months who can't do anything. This would be like the lifeguards year round. S. Lane stated I don't know how you can sit in this town hall and tell you what is going on over at the cemetery. You haven't even taken the time to come over there. L. Carr why should I come over there I have lived in this town all my life, the cemetery was in fine shape. I grew up here. For 60 something years they were part time. You were on for many years, going on about how your former employee was doing a wonderful job, Virgil you were here. Last meeting we had with you, you come in and knocked the guy. Verbally tell the public that this guy was incompetent. S. Lane I would like to see the notes where I was telling the guy was doing a wonderful job. L. Carr stated I'm sure we can find them. V. MacDonald stated you came in a few times and said it. You said it quite a few times. L. Carr asked are you telling me now that you came in here for years with a person who wasn't doing a good job. S. Lane stated I never said he was no good. L. Carr said you said it last meeting you were here.

M.DeCoff asked if ready to call the vote

M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, V. MacDonald Yes, L. Tilly Yes, L. Carr Yes, B. Howard No, L. Goosums No

Motion Passed 5 -2

S. Lane commented look at the board out there it lists all the departments and all the elected officials. Show me where the Cemetery is. You people don't even recognize it as a department and you don't recognize the officials as elected. I can see where you don't see where the cemetery is important.

M. DeCoff asked what going to happen if we don't approve the increase in the Buildings and Grounds. B. Howard stated maybe they'll do some streamlining in their department. M. DeCoff, what happens if we don't approve it.

S. Lane stated it is a vicious attack on the cemetery. L. Carr stated that is incorrect. S. Lane stated it is a case of a power struggle going on. The Selectmen have been wanting that cemetery for a long time. L. Carr stated I don't want anything to do with the cemetery. S. Lane stated I know you don't that's why you want to see if fail. L. Carr responded you'll still be there you'll still be in charge, you'll still have the power.

Discussion continued regarding the assignment of staff and equipment when requested by the Cemetery, Parks and Recs.

VM makes a motion to add 15,619 to line 016

SM Seconds

S. Miller motions stated it is 15,164 to 4194 -016

V. MacDonald seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, V. MacDonald Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, L. Carr Yes, B. Howard No, L. Goosums No

Motion passed 5 - 2

School Board Articles

Article 1

No Discussion

Article II

To determine and fix the salaries of the School Board and the compensation of any other officers or agents of the District as follows: Moderator \$200.00 per meeting; Clerk \$200.00 per meeting; Treasurer, \$2,000.00; Chairman of the School Board \$2,100.00; School Board Members \$2,000.00. These costs items are included in the operating budget. (The Alton School Board recommends by vote of _____. The Alton Budget Committee does/does not recommend by a vote of ____.)

V. MacDonald asked why is there a warrant article if they are already in the budget. K. Holt stated part of the RSA is set up... V. MacDonald asked why do we have to vote for them in the budget and then vote for them here. K. Holt stated that is the way it has been done forever and that is what is expected as a warning of the agent's salary. SM If that is done are the taxpayers playing double. K. Holt stated no because it doesn't say to raise and appropriate. B. Howard asked what if it doesn't pass? V. MacDonald stated it is still in the budget. K. Holt stated it is one of those things it hails back to years and years ago. We haven't done this in the past couple of years. It is just one of those things that the DRA wants on the warrant. SM This is all the same. K. Holt stated the salaries have not changed and these specific salaries the do want because these are the agents that have been voted as agents of the district. VM supervisors of the checklist get voted in, K. Holt stated they are not voted in as school district.

These will be pre-votes

Vote M. DeCoff Yes, L. Tilly Yes, V. MacDonald No, S. Miller No, L. Carr Yes, L. Goosums Yes, B. Howard Yes

Budget Committee votes 5 in Favor, 2 Against

L. Carr believes the vote should be taken at the public meeting. S. Miller we should vote on all of the articles so the public knows our position and then meet after the public hearing and if we are swayed to a different number we revote.

K. Holt asked for the no's is it that you don't support the salary or don't support the article. V. MacDonald stated he doesn't support the article and you shouldn't do it twice, either way we have to pay. No matter what we vote on, it will still be paid because it is in the budget. S. Miller doesn't believe we should pay the school board for poor performance over the last 3 years. S. Miller continued he would pay the clerk and I would pay the Treasurer, buy I can't opt out on those individuals.

Article III

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ _____ DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$ _____) for renovation, reconstruction repairs and construction of an addition to the Alton Central School and for furnishing and equipping the school, and to authorize the

issuance of not more than \$ _____ DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$ _____) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the School Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; furthermore, to authorize the withdrawal of \$19,832.20 from the Water Heater Capital Reserve Funds, \$239,011.33 from the Fire Suppression Capital Reserve Fund, 25,741.22 from the Security/Safety Expendable Trust fund, \$446.18 from the Electric Service Upgrade Expendable Trust Fund, \$1,839.23 from the Bathroom Refurbishment Expendable Trust Fund \$31,103.52 from the Window Replacement Expendable Trust Fund, \$44,666.06 from the Building and Grounds Expendable Trust Fund, with the balance of \$ _____ DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$ _____) and further to raise and appropriate an additional sum of (\$ _____) for the first year's interest payment on the Bond.

L. Goosums handed out copies of revised school addition/renovation plans. K. Holt stated the newspaper put the highest amount as the headline in the paper. The School Board had an estimate of between 22 million – 26 million. The estimate is basically on square feet and the rate with the state said this is what the average cost should be. Number is based on what is to be renovated and what is to be built and that is how the number was obtained. That amount was higher than the School Board anticipated and we thought that the bond rate would be lower and came in higher, thought it was at 5.25%, which was considerably higher than we thought. K. Oblenes has been looking today and has gotten some lower bond rates. Committee did serious work on what we need to do to bring the project in to where it would be a number to where it would be more palatable to the public and still do what needs to happen at the school. Clearly we know and I know the Budget Committee has supported some type of work at the school. There are some serious issues and there are issues less serious but still need to be addressed and some things we had talked about that would be in the best interest of the students. But, sometimes the best interest of the students, may not be what needs to be done at the moment.

Discussion on the building plans hand out by the School Board.

K. Holt stated it is currently back in the hands of the architect.

S. Miller questions that it is premature to bring it before the voters at this time. 1. In one night you made significant major decisions that have not been vetted by an architect. You told them what your wish list was. L. Goosums stated the 3 stories is already proposed so it is doable. Next, What he has read, this is on a projection of 800 students, we now have 530 students and demographics are projected to go down. By the time Alton needs 800 students we are probably talking the time after the proposed bond is due in about 10 years from now. If the demographics grow at some type of 6% compounded rate, S. Miller does not believe and until somebody shows me that that is what it is absolutely going to be it will be 10-15 years from now, there is no reason for a 3rd story. 3. There is no 40% state aid coming. This can't possibly be the time, just because the bond is running out and the town's people are used to paying an extra 2.50 or whatever it is for taxes paying for the bond. Most of the town's people are not making some type of income increase to pay for that. We still have significant economic problems. S. Miller believes there has to be improvement to school and renovations, it can't be based on 800 students and the state projection is going down for the next 5 years. I think your numbers have to be looked at.

L. Goosums stated that was the Nesdeq survey that was done years ago, Also I looked at Dover Middle School and Rochester, the minute they opened the doors they were at capacity when they built for the future. When you build it's the time to do any kind of expansion you are thinking of. L. Goosums informed V. MacDonald that they can't build out because there is no land. Discussion on adding second floor. Mr. Keen asked for a point of order. Speaking with Chip, the standards that you have to build to it was never meant to have a second floor. M. DeCoff called for Point of order. Everybody can go to Buildings and Grounds meeting, this is not the place for it. L. Goosums it is for the future to hold up to hold 800 that doesn't mean we are anticipating 800 next year, for future growth. S. Miller stated there are no valid statistics to show that the students will grow at a 6, 7, 8% rate. It is going down. When was the last time it went up. K. Holt stated it has been up and down, up and down. S. Miller said yes but that was 5 kids. We are not talking within 40 kids. V. MacDonald stated that you must be going to have 800 kids if your finishing the 3rd floor to fit everybody in. L. Goosums stated 3rd floor would be for future growth, like a 20-year plan. Prospect is a great example. K. Holt stated we will have a number for you and we will have a meeting on December 8. S. Miller made a suggestion to the board, what ever number you come up with somebody has to prove to me that there is a need for the third floor and the demographics are good hard demographics and the engineers and architects are online with that number not a cost/plus number. What ever the number is, that is what it is built for. K. Holt stated it will be a maximum number. S. Miller stated if that is the number everything that is prescribed for that number takes place. Convince this member of the board and I will look at the numbers. Believes something has to be done to the school as well.

K. Holt asked what number would S. Miller would be comfortable with. He responded somewhere between 600 and 625 students. Whatever square footage that is unless you can show me different demographic numbers in Alton iime frame of the bond, K. Holt stated they are proposing a twenty-year bond. Belknap population is going down. The population is the same as it was 12-15 years ago.

Article IV

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$_____ DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$_____) to be expended for the purpose of installing Geothermal Heating System at Alton Central School and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$_____ DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$_____) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the School Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and further to raise and appropriate an additional sum of (\$_____) DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$_____) for the first year's interest payment on the Bond (The Alton School Board recommends \$_____ by a vote of _____. The Alton Budget Committee does/does not recommend \$_____ by a vote of _____.

This article was not discussed

S. Miller asked a question regarding article IV, what is the ballpark figure. K. Holt about 1.8. It was included in the 21-26 million. Give the voters the opportunity to decide if they want that. Keeping in mind that there is a lot of evidence that a geothermal system will pay for itself over time, not in the first 5 years. Maybe they may not want to pay for it now, but maybe later.

Article V

In the event that Article IV is defeated, to see if the School District will vote to create an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 198.20-c. to be known as the Geothermal Energy Expendable Trust, for the purpose of contracting and installing a geothermal heating system for the Alton Central School facility. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$50,000.00) toward this purpose and to name the School Board as agents to expend from this fund. This warrant article to be void and have no effect if Article IV is approved by the voters. (The Alton School Board recommends \$50,000.00 by a vote of _____. The Alton budget committee does/does not recommend \$50,000.00 by a vote of _____,

L. Goosums we put in a new boiler, with the expansion, the new boiler that we just put in, would pretty much take care of everything that is here and is a cost savings to the taxpayers. What we are saying is it doesn't need to be put in right now because we just put in the new boiler. If oil continues to go up and be as volatile as it is and if the taxpayers want to put the money in, it would be a savings. B. Howard stated with the geothermal you still need the boilers and the electric will go up. L. Goosums stated no. Discussion on Articles IV and V. Pay either for lump sum or bit at a time. V. MacDonald stated if you are going to put in a new school you should put it right into the building. Discussion on the installation of the geothermal system. K. Holt stated it is a pretty substantial upfront cost. Maybe people want a building, they don't want geothermal or maybe they want a building but will wait on the geothermal. V. MacDonald stated it is included in the price of the building price. Continued discussion regarding the geothermal system. K. Holt stated this is a warrant article, it is not a necessity for this building. It is not a necessity it is an option. B. Howard stated the verdict is still out whether it is going to be effective in the long run. It is going to take 36 years for pay for the system.

Article V - Pre-vote

M. DeCoff No, S. Miller No, L. Tilly Yes, L. Goosums Yes, B. Howard No, L. Carr No V. MacDonald No

Budget Committee, 5 Against, 2 in Favor

Article VI

No Discussion

Article VII

To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Alton School District and the Alton Teacher's Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Increase
Unknown	
_____	\$ _____

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of _____ DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$ _____) for the (YEAR) fiscal year,

such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in prior fiscal year in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement. (The Alton School Board recommends \$_____ by a vote of _____. The Alton Budget Committee does/does not recommend \$_____ by a vote of _____.)

Contract is under negotiations. S. Miller asked has the contract been negotiated. L. Goosums responded it is in process. S. Miller will it be ready to go to the teachers yet?. L. Goosums stated it is in the middle of negotiations. It has to be ready by January 10, so it can go before the voters.

V. MacDonald seriously think about getting rid of your special meeting. Doubt people will every give you a budget if it includes holding a special meeting. I don't think the town's people will ever give that school board another special meeting.

L. Goosums stated we are going to mediation. S. Miller asked if the mediator number is the number that comes before the town. L. Goosums said yes and we are setting up mediation.

Article VIII

No Discussion

Article IX

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND CENTS (\$20,000.00) to be expended for the purpose of the Closure of an Underground Storage Tank (UST) System without Secondary containment & Leak Monitoring (The Alton School Board recommends \$20,000.00 by a vote of _____. The Alton Budget Committee dies/does not recommend \$20,000.00 by a vote of _____.)

K. Holt we have an underground storage tank. They are all required to be closed by 2015. V. MacDonald stated instead of encumbering all of our surplus funds and all the little projects that we have a free for all over there when we find out we have surplus why not use the surplus and start tearing these tanks out and taking care of them instead of putting surplus on all these little projects that the teachers and everybody else got. Why wouldn't we do something as important as this encumbered funds for this out of surplus? K. Holt stated because we thought you wanted all capital projects identified. S. Miller recommendation to take it out of the Building and Grounds Maintenance Trust Fund. You have the money to do it and it is just sitting there. That is why I will vote against this. L. Goosums asked which trust fund. K. Holt stated Buildings and Grounds. L. Carr suggested they add wording to the article that it comes out of the Building and Grounds Trust fund. K. Holt stated we were hoping to use those funds to reduce the bond.

Break called at 7:35pm

Meeting called to order at 7:42

S. Miller on article IX, I vote that we do not recommend 20,000 for the purpose of the closure of the underground storage tanks and recommend taking the funds out of Buildings and Maintenance Trust Fund.

M. DeCoff Seconds

Vote L. Carr Yes, S. Miller Yes, M. DeCoff Yes , V. MacDonald Yes, L. Tilly Yes, V. MacDonald Yes, L. Goosums Yes

Budget Committee votes 7 in favor, 0 against to take money for storage tank removal from the Buildings and Maintenance Trust fund

Article X

In the event that Article III is defeated, to see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLAARS AND NO CENTS (\$150,000.00) to be added to the existing Building and Grounds Expendable Trust crease 3-11 08 under RSA 198:20-c for the purpose of building, repairing and maintaining school facilities. This warrant article to be void and have not effect if Article III is approved by the voters. (The Alton School Board recommends \$150,000.00 by a vote of _____. The Alton Budget Committee does/does not recommend \$150,000.00 by a vote of _____.)

S. Miller does not believe we can vote on this until we receive a number on Article III

S. Miller makes motion table Article 10.

S. Miller makes Motion to table articles Article 10, Article 11, Article 12, Article 13, Article 14 and Article 16

M. DeCoff seconds

All in favor

Article XV

To see if the School District will vote to establish a Contingency Fund under the provisions of RSA 198:4-b to meet the cost of unanticipated utilities expenses that may arise during the fiscal year 2013 at Alton School District. Furthermore to raise and appropriate the sum of SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$60,000.00) toward this purpose and to name the Alton School Board as agents to expend from this fund. A detailed report of all expenditures from the contingency fund shall be made annually by the School Board and published with their report . (Any funds not used will be returned to the town.) (The Alton School Board recommends \$60,000.00 by a vote of _____. The Alton Budget Committee does/does not recommend \$60,000.00 by a vote of _____.)

S. Miller asked did you take 1% of the budget. K. Holt said just put in 60,000, about 1/3 of the fuel bill. Budget Committee cut the fuel bill by 20,000 because anticipated a contingency warrant on the fuel bill. S. Miller this is the one that comes back to the taxpayers.

M. DeCoff motions to approve Article 15

L. Tilly Seconds

Vote S. Miller Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, L. Tilly Yes, V. MacDonald No, L. Goosums Yes, L. Carr Yes, B. Howard Yes

Budget Committee vote, 6 in favor, 1 against

Article XVII

To see if the School District will vote to establish a non-capital, non lapsing reserve fund known as the “Alton Professional Development Fund” for the purpose of reimbursing Alton Central School teachers for the costs of professional development and to raise and appropriate up to the sum of TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$20,000.00) from the June 30 unreserved Fiscal Year 2012 fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1 of this year to be placed in the Fund, and to designate the Alton School Board as agent to expend from the “Alton Professional Development Fund”. A detailed report of all expenditures form the fund shall be made annually by the School Board and published in their annual report. (The Alton School Board recommends up to \$20,000.00 by a vote of _____. The Alton Budget Committee does/does not recommend up to \$20,000 by a vote of _____.)

B. Howard asked are there 3 staff members who are staying overnight in Concord for training right now. K. Holt stated it is in Manchester. If they car-pooled, it would be less than the meals, hotel room. V. MacDonald stated they are paying to stay overnight. B. Howard that is how they are they are using the Professional Development money. It is not just for the training it is for hotels, meals, etc.

**Motion by V. MacDonald to vote no
S. Miller seconds**

Discussion on money not being used responsibly. V. MacDonald states he can't believe we are paying for hotels, motels and meals. K. Holt stated that was for the board. This is the article that the Budget Committee had asked we set money aside. V. Macdonald stated to be used responsibly. K. Holt stated the issue here was the Budget Committee wanted the School Board to set it up in a fund to set aside versus to raise the funds every year. V. MacDonald believes it should be cut 100%. K. Holt and M. DeCoff noted that it was in the contract. L. Goosums we can't cut contractual items.

Continued Discussion,

Vote V. MacDonald No, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller No, L. Carr No, L. Tilly Yes, B. Howard No, L. Goosums Yes

Motion failed

Budget Committee Vote 4 against – 3 in favor

Article XX1

To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$45,000.00) to purchase and install an Internet Protocol telephone system for Alton Central School. (The Alton School Board recommends \$45,000.00 by a vote of _____. The Alton Budget Committee does/does not recommend \$45,000.00 by a vote of _____.)

S. Miller asked if it was new hardware. You were going to buy an 8,000 system and changed it to a 45,000 system. K. Holt stated no. K. Holt stated original cost was much higher and P. McCloud got it reduced. It will reduce our annual phone costs considerably. K. Oblenes states that she thinks it was cut in half.

**S. Miller Motions to table Article XXI until we get a payback figure on it.
M. DeCoff seconds**

**Vote L. Carr Yes, S. Miller Yes, L. Tilly Yes, L. Goosums Yes, V. MacDonald Yes,
M. DeCoff Yes.
Budget Committee vote 7 – 0 in favor to table Article XXI**

School has a buildings and grounds meeting on December 8th.

December 15 Budget Committee will meet with School Board, 6:00 pm

Charities

M. DeCoff I have a question, the school tax and state school tax. The state school tax comes back to the town. R. Bailey state yes it doesn't leave. MD is that in the school budget the total amount of money they are trying to collect. R. Bailey, yes.

R. Bailey stated warrant articles will be available for next meeting.

Police Cruiser

Selectmen are looking to establish a capital reserve. Special article for the use of purchasing a cruiser and Selectmen will be named as agent. L. Goosums asked why don't we lease cruisers. R. Bailey stated it has been discussed and the Selectmen feel that it is not the best option due to the cost of the lease. Establish a capital reserve and buy it when it is needed. V. MacDonald asked what is the difference buy it as needed or now. L. Carr responded the this way we can look at it, instead of automatically buying it. If there are funds left over it stays in there and the money grows. We are looking at different options. B. Howard asked is this for cruisers or the deluxe model SUV. L. Carr stated we are looking at the Ford Taurus all wheel drive.

S. Miller asked Unit 1 is at least 30% higher in cost than the rest. L. Carr stated they are identical. Discussion on car usage, mileage, costs, repairs. L. Carr stated we will get a verification on the average daily mileage.

These items are for review only.

Building Improvements for Police

Article would be used to fund for the future. Enough to get the shell finished, then do some remodeling inside. Currently have about 142 in the account now. R. Bailey there is enough to finish the shell and make it functional. Need about 115,000 to finish. Does not include the remodeling. R. Bailey this is not the final figure and is still being worked on.

Town Hall Improvements

Front entrance has been done, looking at windows, still getting pricing on the handicapped lift. R. Bailey we have to have some type of elevator or lift or we don't meet the requirements for public hearings. Still have the sealing of building, the boiler is

functional but zones are not for the rooms upstairs, the thermostat is downstairs. Major work needed on building.

Fuel Capital Reserve

Proposing 10,000 to cover overruns on gas, oil, propane. It would be a capital reserve, balance would stay and remain in fund. S Miller suggested it would be a contingency fund, and if not needed would go back to the taxpayers. His recommendation is a contingency fund. The voters are already used to approving contingency funds and you could probably say 20,000. L Carr if we don't need it, we wouldn't have to ask for it every year. S. Miller that could be a political question. You could be building up a fund, what would the limit be? V. MacDonald the voters would decide.

Personnel Manual Review

One time item to bring in outside firm to look at town policies. M. DeCoff suggested if we are going to spend money to have manual review, why don't we spend the money to see if the staffing is adequate or too high for the town and if our pay is too high or too low. B. Howard stated is this a legal fund that is why it cost so much. R. Bailey stated it was a guess, it would go out to bid to a qualified company who have know personnel law to make sure that our harassment policies and others are up to date. B. Howard stated the harassment is on the side of the employee but what about some of the legal issues we've had. Is somebody going to look at that to make sure the loopholes are closed. R. Bailey stated they will look at the entire thing. S. Miller my thought is that it is probably high, use that money to have some wiggle room. R. Bailey stated we are asking them to look at our community and to make recommendations.

Capital Reserve Sidewalk

Want to add to the fund. Finally got the front of the Town Hall done. Talking now about going from Town Hall to in front of the bank. The sidewalks have been neglected. B. Howard asked if that would be repairing the sidewalks or adding new. R. Bailey stated replacing the curbing, the selectman are still debating concrete vs. asphalt . We would have to rip out a large portion of what we have. This is to replace or rebuild what we have. S. Miller thinks the voters would vote for double on that. R. Bailey stated we are trying to keep the numbers down.

Mill Foil

R. Bailey this amount came from the Mill Foil committee. This is for chemical treatment and pulling. Already out to bid. State grant will cover part of it. Areas must be re-treated. They found a couple of new areas. Plus the river, a good portion of the river has not been done yet. B. Howard asked about charging for boats using the launch. Most of the boats on the lake do not use Alton launch and use private launches or their own docks.

Landfill Closure

Board has looked at all the long-term options and they are expensive, in the millions. M. DeCoff stated if it is cleaned up, the property could be worth money down the road. State is requiring us to put in another test well. B. Howard asked how much are we spending in test wells each year? R. Bailey stated we have not put this one in yet. We couldn't get approval from the landowner. We are waiting on the state. Looking at alternate site, which is not the ideal one, but we are hoping that will work. S. Miller asked how much is a test well. R. Bailey responded 14-15. Then we have to do all the monitoring, the engineer has do the report. A clean up of the property is a minimum was 5-6 million,

which was not a full clean up. M. DeCoff asked what happens after all the monitoring and the state says we have to clean it up? R. Bailey responded the engineer doesn't feel they will ever do that, worst-case scenario is if it started contaminating existing resident wells, we would have to do something to give that person water. But that is still cheaper.

Transfer Station Site Improvement

Working up there, new concrete work, metal pile, shingles is moving to new site. Open in spring based on getting the paving done. This is for the roof. Finish the site work and put roof up. All new drainage and retention pond. There will be a lot more sorting. Net revenues each year about 70,000-75,000. All recycling revenues goes into recycling fund. Can use recycling funds as long as it relates to recycling.

Pearson Building

This has been started. This is for the next phase, expand out to the left. Need to look at septic, parking and they have started fund raising. Usage has gone up every year. They serve lunch, as part of the Meals on Wheels.

East Side Restroom

Similar concept to west side, Bay is a critical area of the community. Siding for West Side was about 9800 or 9000. This will be less. Need to finish handicap. There is still a question about the doors. Money will go back to the general fund and can only be used for this. V. MacDonald made a suggestion, going forward set it up so the remaining funds can be used for other items, like the Community Center.

Ground and Maintenance for Equipment

To keep equipment account funded. Capital reserve for tractor, mower, and other equipment. They have existing capital reserve and currently have 15659, selectmen are looking at the zero turning mower and attachment for the sidewalk machine.

Ambulance Fund – Annual Self-sufficient

Fire Building improvement

To add to the account for Central Station. Discussion regarding the command vehicle, it was on warrant last year and it failed. Board is not sure what they are going to do yet. Have not finalized what they are going to do.

Highway – Reconstruction

Spent about 690,000 carrying over 650,000 and part of it is already committed. Board will walk Trask side again next week. Looking at a list of shim and overlay vs. grind and pave. Crack sealing is in the operating budget. Discussion on sealing. There was 1.3 million in January, spent 648,000, plus an additional 20,000 – 30,000. Board plans to bring in more contractors to overlay and shim and grind and pave. Recommended 750,000. It can only be used for roads. Had planned to do Trask Road but got delayed. Town does not have the equipment to do the work to do shim and overlay.

Highway Equipment Capital Reserve

Covers all equipment. Replacing equipment. Looking at major pieces of equipment, truck, grader has been repaired.

Bridge Replacement

The fund is depleted from finishing up other areas. Currently in the negative. Talked to FEMA to see how much they are going to fund, then the state will determine how much they will fund. Probably around 40,000-60,000. Bridge cost about ½ million.

Charities

Selectmen are looking to bundle, will be listed individually under the warrant article with an amount and a grand total. S. Miller noted that means the taxpayer cannot vote up or down each individual one. They have to accept each one. The deliberative can only change the number, the numbers. The selectmen can still choose to fund. R. Bailey said he would speak to the board but believes they would honor the meeting. Discussion on charities. Final number is 56,196. Okay all individual numbers under one warrant article.

S. Miller asked, have a couple of these not picked up a check from last year. Caregivers, Red Cross and Casa have still not picked up the checks. Casa benefits about 7 people in town. VNA and Hospice, R. Bailey will get more information on the number of Alton residents served. American Red Cross serviced 2 people and 293 people trained.

Benefits Fund

Payout for vacations. Discussion on payout on vacations. Includes sick time, holiday's can only accumulate so much. Anticipated payout for retiree is 12000-15000.

Total request 1,384,444

M. DeCoff asked about attorney fees to investigate consulting company. Part of the legal investigation. Discussion of legal. S. Miller stated it was a bad personnel decision that cost 92,000. Discussion on holiday pay compensation.

8. Public Input

None seen or heard

R. Bailey stated he will re-post the schedule and added Tuesday 6th, Thursday December 8th and December 15th.

V. MacDonald is on leave until January 5th.

Adjournment

M. DeCoff Motion to adjourn

L. Goosums seconds

All in favor

Approved 1/24/2012

Respectfully submitted

Peggy Hawksley