

**TOWN OF ALTON  
ALTON BUDGET COMMITTEE  
(Approved 12/16/08)  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 4, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Miller, Chairman  
Karen Painter, Vice Chair  
Elizabeth Dominick  
Richard MacDonald  
Steve McMahon, Board of Selectmen's Representative  
Jeffrey St. Cyr, School Board Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT: Greg Fuller

OTHERS PRESENT: Russ Bailey, Town Administrator  
Thomas Hoopes, Planning Board

I. CALL TO ORDER

S. Miller called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

E. Dominick, S. McMahon and G. Fuller were absent at the time of roll call.

IV. SCHEDULE MEETING WITH ARCHITECT

S. Miller reported that Russ Bailey has requested the Committee meet on December 16, 2008 at 6:30 PM to meet with the architect, Board of Selectmen, etc., to discuss the bond for the improvement of several town buildings. The Committee agreed by consensus that they could meet on that date.

V. AGENDA

S. Miller stated that CIP should be moved up on the agenda because of the ZBA meeting taking place upstairs.

K. Painter motioned to approve the agenda as amended and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, RM, JS / absent – ED, GF, SMC)

## VI. CIP

The CIP Committee consists of members of the community. The members are: Thad Guldbrandsen, Tom Hoopes, Dick Cunningham, Kathy Kinnon, and \_\_\_\_\_. They looked at budgeting and capital equipment over six years and met with various department heads.

T. Guldbrandsen spoke about the snow removal equipment that has been requested by Parks and Recreation. The Highway Department has requested a roller and the item is something that the department is renting now. T. Guldbrandsen spoke about the roller and how it would benefit the town. There was discussion on the plans that the director of the Highway Department had for the roller. The rented roller is something that the Highway Department only has available to them twice a year. T. Hoopes spoke about the grading of the roads.

[E. Dominick joined the meeting.]

The Committee reviewed a list of items being recommended by CIP. S. Miller asked if there was any sort of analysis available to show that the equipment being requested by the Highway Department was the best possible piece of equipment needed.

[S. McMahon joined the meeting.]

T. Hoopes spoke about the work of the Planning Department, as they look at the infrastructure needs of the town.

There was discussion about the generator needed for the town hall. The CIP Committee reported they discussed the sidewalks in town the most. T. Hoopes spoke about the possibility of expanding the sidewalks. R. MacDonald asked about possibly having the town split the cost of the sidewalks with the state. T. Hoopes reported there might be some money available when the state works on the traffic circle.

The CIP Committee reviewed the needs of the Fire Department and reported that \$300,000.00 has been requested a ladder truck. A vehicle (car) has also been requested to replace one that has been retired. There is one payment left of \$50,000.00 on the fire truck. There is a capital reserve for the expansion of the buildings.

T. Guldbrandsen spoke about the recent purchase and sales agreement that the school has with the Twombly estate. J. St. Cyr noted that it was the last large piece of property in the center of town and consisted of ten acres. There was discussion about the center of town and the location of the property.

R. Bailey reported that the Selectmen have decided to pursue the building project and they would be discussing their plans with the Committee on December 16. He stated that the renovations on the sidewalks is something that they are looking into but there is not a plan yet. The traffic circle will be renovated by the State. The sidewalks from the cemetery to the circle will be completed by the state and the town will maintain it.

R. Bailey reported there are two new programs: CORE program for Belknap County and the Child and Family. There are two programs that will not be funded: Genesis and Lakes Region Planning. S. Miller asked for a copy of the backup information that R. Bailey receives. There was discussion about the services offered by some of the programs that request money from the town.

S. Miller noted that it was not available for the Committee to videotape that night's meeting.

R. Bailey spoke about an accident with the new International ten-wheeler.

E. Dominick spoke about her concerns about a comment that had been made about how CIP looked at the things they recommended and stated they did not look at the cost of their recommendations.

There were no other questions about CIP.

#### VII. MEETING MINUTES

There were no meeting minutes to approve.

#### VIII. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

#### IX. ANIMAL CONTROL

There was review and discussion about the calls that the Animal Control Officer (ACO) has answered over the past year. It was felt that there was not enough information about the calls and scope of work involved with the calls so this item was tabled for the next meeting.

#### X. BUDGET REVISIONS

R. Bailey spoke about the budget increases and noted that it was possible, with the warrant articles, was a zero increase for FY 2010. He reported on some of the items that had been lowered by the Selectmen. He stated that Cemetery Department did not accept the Selectmen's recommendations for fuel because they felt there should be a "cushion". He presented a packet to the Committee with some of the changes that have been made and spoke about many of the

There was review and discussion about changes made to the Selectmen's budget.

S. Miller motioned to accept the Selectmen's budget, as recommended by the Selectmen, at \$10,322.00, with the addition of \$6,724.00 to the salary budget line, and K. Painter seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, RM, JS, SMc / absent – GF)

R. Bailey spoke about changes made to the benefits. He spoke about some of the changes made to FICA, insurance, etc. S. Miller spoke to J. St. Cyr and suggested that the school should have the same insurance provider that the town had because the school had a significant change in their insurance. J. St. Cyr stated that the insurance came in at 3.9%. R. Bailey spoke about the union

E. Dominick motioned to accept the Selectmen's recommendations for Benefits at \$1,131,942.00 and K. Painter seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, RM, JS, SMc / absent – GF)

S. Miller noted that the Committee still needed to vote on Police Department. The Committee agreed by consensus to discuss it at the next meeting.

S. Miller spoke about the school budget and felt it could be completed at the next meeting. J. St. Cyr noted that there was a concert planned on 12/11 that could cause a conflict.

S. Miller asked for information on budget line transfers and revenues for the vending machines for the school. There was discussion about the justification for some of the information that has been requested.

S. Miller spoke about some of the departments that will have a different budget total because of the change of fuel prices in the budget. The Committee decided by consensus they did not want to re-vote on the Cemetery Department's budget.

#### XI. ADJOURNMENT

R. MacDonald motioned to adjourn and E. Dominick seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, RM, JS, SMc / absent – GF)

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Recorder