

Budget Committee Meeting
Minutes, December 4, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
APPROVED Minutes (Approved 12/13/2018)
Alton Town Hall
1 Monument Square, Alton, NH 03809

1. **Call to Order.**

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call**

Roger Nelson, Chairman
Beth Varney, Member
Greg Fuller, Member
Patrick O'Brien, Member
David Hershey, Member
Karen Kharitonov, School Board Representative
John Markland, Selectman Representative

Liz Dione, Town Administrator
Troy Neff, Financial Administrator

4. **Approval of Agenda**

MOTION by D. Hershey to approve the Agenda as presented. Second by K. Kharitonov. No discussion. Motion passes with all in favor.

5. **Approval of Minutes**

November 29, 2019 – Did not vote on tonight.

6. **New Business**

a. Finalize Town Budget

4130 Administration.

MOTION by R. Nelson Line 110 reduce to 1500. Line 181 printing reduce to \$3000 reducing. Second by G. Fuller. Discussion. R. Nelson to amend reduce Line 181 to \$2000. Second by G. Fuller. Discussion. This is the first go at changes and will be discussion again at a public hearing. G. Fuller amend total Administration \$364,443. Second by D. Hershey. **Motion passes. (5 yes, 1 no, 1 abs.)**

\$364,443

4193 Assessing.

MOTION by R. Nelson to reduce Line 015 to \$33,429 making proposed budget \$143,661. Second by D. Hershey. Discussion on pay increase. The town has had a 15% increase over the last 3 years. **Motion passes. (6 yes, 1 no).**

\$143,661

4199 Audio.

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented at \$3500.00. Second by G. Fuller. No discussion. **Motion passes (7 yes).**

\$3,500

4155 Benefits.

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented \$1,466, 317. Second by B. Varney. Discussion. G. Fuller amend motion to table motion to December 13 meeting to get corrected information. Second by R. Nelson. Motion passes (7 yes.)

\$1,466,317

4131 Budget.

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented \$1,776. Second by G. Fuller. Discussion. G. Fuller asked if survey had been done. R. Nelson noted it was done. Motion passes (7 yes.)

\$1776

4192 Building.

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented. Second by G. Fuller. Discussion. Line 201 reduce new equipment to \$400, reduce line 214 to \$700. R. Nelson to amend total to \$99,879. Second by G. Fuller. Discussion. Amended by K. Kharitonov to keep ½ merit increase. Second by P. O'Brien. Discussion. P. O'Brien asked what qualified someone for a salary increase. General discussion on merit increases and the process when it should be figured for the budget. 2nd Amended Motion failed (7 no.). Call for question on Amended motion for new total of \$99,879. Motion passes (6 yes, 1 no).

\$99,879

4195 Cemetery.

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented. Second by G. Fuller. Discussion. Reduce Line 016 to \$22,913, Line 029 to \$250, Line 207 to \$1,000, Line 208 to \$500. Amended motion by R. Nelson new total for Cemetery \$66,595. Second by G. Fuller. Discussion. General discussion of overtime. Motion passes (5 yes, 2 no).

\$66,595

4612 Conservation.

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented. Second by D. Hershey. Discussion. R. Nelson suggest reducing Line 015 to \$9,437. Amended Motion by R. Nelson to accept new total \$14,950. Second by D. Hershey. No discussion. Motion passes (5 yes, 2 no).

\$14,950

4140 Elections.

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented. Second by G. Fuller. Discussion. Reduce line 01 to \$3,500. Amended motion by R. Nelson to accept new total of \$12,609. Second by G. Fuller. No discussion. Motion failed. (1 yes, 6 no).

\$15,094

4290 Emergency.

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented \$4,003. Second by G. Fuller. No discussion. Motion passes (7 yes.)

\$4,003

4220 Fire.

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented. Second by D. Hershey. Discussion. R. Nelson questioned Line 110 (\$1 to \$4000?) sending people to conferences. Suggested the following changes. Line 015 to \$115,798, Line 017 to \$95,000, Line 018 to \$325,000, Line 024 to \$1,500, Line 025 to \$1,500, Line 113 to \$5,000, Line 131 to \$1,500, Line 139 to \$1,500, Line 181 to \$500, Line 201 to \$17,500, Line 206 to \$7,500, Line 207 to \$37,500, Line 245 to \$2,500, Line 303 to \$9,000, Line 304 to \$12,750, Line 305 to \$2,200, Line 309 to \$12,500, Line 342 to \$2,000, Line 343 \$1,500, Line 440 to \$1,500, Line 448 to \$6,500, Line 451 to \$20,000, Line 453 to \$7,000, Line 600 to \$8,640, and Line 601 to \$5,360. Amend motion by R. Nelson to new total of \$929,907. Second by D. Hershey. Discussion. Motion passes (4 yes, 1 no, 2 abs).

\$920,907

4575 Gilman Museum.

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented at \$5,695. Second by G. Fuller. No discussion. Motion passes. (7 yes).

\$5,695

4194 Grounds.

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented. Second by G. Fuller. Discussion. R. Nelson suggested the following changes. Line 011 to \$74,382, Line 201 to \$3,500, Line 214 to \$6,000, Line 303 to \$13,500, Line 309 to \$6,000, Line 334 to \$2,600, Line 339 to \$3,000, Line 383 to \$3,300, Line 389 to \$1,000, Line 399 to \$2,000, Line 445 to \$500, Line 449 to \$2,000, Line 499 to \$1,000, Line 699 to \$500, Line 899 to \$550 and Line 999 to \$700. Amended motion by G. Fuller changing total to \$238,726. Second by R. Nelson. Discussion. Change Line 309 to \$7,000. Second Amended motion by G. Fuller to change Line 309 to \$7,000. Second amended Motion passes (6 yes, 1 no). Changing total to \$239,726. Further Discussion. Third amended motion by P. O'Brien to increase Line 011 to \$75,421 (from \$74382) and Line 016 to \$41,986. Second by K. Kharitonov. Motion fails. (2 yes, 5 no). First amended motion passes (4 yes, 3 no).

\$239,726

4312 Highway

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented. Second by G. Fuller. Discussion. R. Nelson proposed the following reduction. Line 010 to \$609,160, Line 021 to \$52,209, Line 101 to \$2,000, Line 111 to \$1,250, Line 142 to \$60,000, Line 193 to \$750, Line 201 to \$8,000, Line 206 to \$7,000, Line 208 to \$8,240, Line 214 to \$65,000, Line 246 to \$1,200, Line 303 to \$6,000, Line 304 to \$7,000, Line 309 to \$6,000, Line 443 to \$3,000, Line 445 to \$2,500, Line 448 to \$10,000, Line 449 to \$2,500, Line 450 to \$450. Amended motion by R. Nelson to change total to \$1,217,203. Second by G. Fuller. Further discussion. Second Amended Motion by R. Nelson to change Line 208 to \$8,240. Second by J. Markland. No discussion. Second Amended Motion passes (7 yes). Amended Motion passes (4 yes, 3 no).

\$1,207,213

4326 HHW

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented \$20,741. Second by D. Hershey. General Discussion. Motion passes (7 yes).

\$20,741

4196 Insurance

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented \$305,748. Second by D. Hershey. General discussion. Motion passes (7 yes).

\$305,748

4155 IT

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented. Second by G. Fuller. Discussion. R. Nelson suggested the following reduction. Line 016 to \$1,853, and Line 139 to \$1,000. Motion passes (4 yes, 2 no, 1 abs).

\$171,307

4153 Legal.

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented. Second by G. Fuller. Discussion. R. Nelson suggested changing Line 185 to \$52,168. Amended motion by R. Nelson to change total to \$110,552. Second by J. Markland. Discussion. Suggestion in the future please show where amounts are contractual (in all departments). Motion passes (7 yes).

\$110,552

4550 Library.

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented \$141,813. Second by G. Fuller. Discussion. R. Nelson suggested the following changes. Line 018 to \$600, Line 110 to \$600, Line 112 to \$150, and Line 135 to \$8,500.

Amended motion by R. Nelson to change the total to \$139,945. Second by G. Fuller. General discussion. Motion fails. (3 yes, 4 no). Motion passes for first motion as \$141,813. (4 yes, 3 no).

\$141,183

4520 Parks and Recreation

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented. Second by G. Fuller. Discussion. R. Nelson recommended to following changes. Change Line 011 to \$82,851, Line 015 to \$133,350, Line 201 to \$1,000. Amended motion by R. Nelson to change total for Parks and Recreation to \$112,519. Second by G. Fuller. General Discussion. Motion passes (4 yes, 3 no).

\$112,519

4583 Patriotic.

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented at \$21,000. Second by D. Hershey. No discussion. Motion passes (7 yes).

\$21,000

4191 Planning.

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented. Second by D. Hershey. Discussion. R. Nelson suggested the following changes. Line 010 to \$109,858, Line 110 to \$500, and Line 185 to \$500. Amended motion by R. Nelson to change total to \$120,058. Second by D. Hershey. Discussion.

Second Amended Motion by P. O'Brien to put Line 185 back to \$750. Second by K. Kharitonov. Discussion. Motion passes (6 yes, 1 no). First Amended motion passes (4 yes, 3 no).

\$120,308

4210 Police.

Chief Heath presented cuts to the following Lines. Line 115 to \$11,479, Line 204 to \$1, Line 207 to \$7,000, Line 208 to \$1, Line 440 to \$3,150, Line 499 to \$1. General Discussion.

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented with changes. Second by G. Fuller. Discussion. R. Nelson suggested the following changes. Line 010 to \$880,719, Line 015 to \$42,900, Line 020 to \$71,000, Line 029 to \$3,500, Line 032 to \$31,000, Line 109 to \$5,000, Line 110 to \$750, Line 113 to \$4,000, Line 114 to \$4,500, Line 131 to \$1,700, Line 165 to \$4,000, Line 214 to \$23,000 and Line 271 to \$2,000. Amended motion by R. Nelson to change total to \$1,154,221. Second by G. Fuller. Discussion. Comment by Chief Heath 4.8 increase over 3-year salaries. 9.8 over 4 year. 2 years ago, animal control combined and 7 year average is off. R. Nelson asked what parttime hourly rate was. R. Heath \$22 - \$27 based on experience. First Amended motion by P. O'Brien to take Line 101 and 115 to raise to 1.5 percent. Second by K. Kharitonov. Discussion. Motion passes (5 yes, 2 no).

\$1,154,221 R. Nelson suggested Line changes.
\$1,145,572 with chief cuts and Amended motion passed.

Third Amended motion by P. O'Brien to change Line 010 to \$893,024, and Line 015 to \$46,039. No second motion fails.

Chief Heath informed about the Info on Line 109. Cut will take a person out of a program.

Fourth Amended motion by G. Fuller to Add \$1,500 back to Line 109 making the total \$6,500. Second by D. Hershey. No discussion. Motion passes (7 yes).

Fifth Amended motion by B. Varney to change Line 113 back to \$5,000 from \$4,000. Second by D. Hershey. No discussion. Motion passed (7 yes).

Sixth Amended motion by B. Varney to change Line 114 back to \$5,257. Second by K. Kharitonov. No discussion. Motion passes (7 yes).

Seventh Amended motion by K. Kharitonov to change Line 165 to \$4,792. Second by D. Hershey. No discussion. Motion passes (7 yes).

Call for the question on original motion by R. Nelson with corrected total of \$1,158,696. Motion passes (6 yes, 1 no).

\$1,158,696

4324 Solid Waste.

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented. Second by D. Hershey. Discussion. R. Nelson suggested the following changes. Line 011 and 016 reduced by \$3984 total. Amended motion by R.

Nelson to change the total for Solid Waste to \$456,161. Second by D. Hershey. No discussion. Motion passes (4 yes, 3 no).

\$456,161

4316 Street Lights

Motion by R. Nelson to accept as presented at \$34,100. Second by D. Hershey. No discussion. Motion passes (7 yes).

\$34,100

4132 Town Clerk

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented. Second by G. Fuller. Discussion. R. Nelson suggested the following changes. Line 010 to \$138,313, Line 168 to \$2,500. Amended motion by G. Fuller to increase Line 168 by \$300 making total \$2,800. No discussion. Amended motion passes (5 yes, 2 no). New total \$163,523. Motion passes (4 yes, 3 no).

\$163,523

4331 Water

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented at \$468,100. Second by G. Fuller. No discussion. Motion passes (5 yes, 2 abs).

\$468,100

4442 Welfare

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented. Second by D. Hershey. Discussion. R. Nelson presented the following changes. Line 801 to \$30,000, Line 804 to \$1,500. Amended motion by R. Nelson to change the total to \$61,350. General discussion. Second Amended motion by R. Nelson to change line 804 back to \$1,612. Second Amended Motion passes (7 yes). New total \$61,462. Amended motion passes (5 yes, 2 no).

\$61,462

4723 Short Term Interest.

MOTION by R. Nelson to accept as presented at \$1. Second by D. Hershey. No discussion. Motion passes (7 yes.)

\$1

MOTION by J. Markland to increase Merit to all departments. Second by K. Kharitonov. No discussion. Motion fails (3 yes, 4 no).

POINT OF ORDER by G. Fuller. We gave the Police Chief time to go over his line items and should have given the other departments the same opportunity.

7. Public Input

Ken Roberts – general cuts, does not agree with basing on up to October expenditures. Disagree with the process of how they are cutting numbers and not referring to the justifications.

Chief Ryan Heath – gave his opinion on salary increases and the cutting of merit and how it affects morale of town employees. Suggest taking a harder look at line items other than benefits and salaries.

Loring Carr – gave his opinion on the merit system process and employee increases.

Raymond Howard – question on contractual amounts set for budget. How do you budget contracts with no money. Question on FD if we are still associated with mutual aid?

First Chief – Belknap County is not interested in dispatching fire services. We are affiliated with Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid.

Kelly Troendle – gave her opinion on grounds and maint, some cuts made tonight feels reasoning was not taken into consideration.

Troy Neff – noted 5% increase to last years to this year proposed.

Public input closed

8. Old Business None.

9. **Other Business** – 12/13 at 6:30 discuss Benefits. Warrant Articles not available for the 13th. Meeting on Jan 9 public hearing on entire budget, 6:30. Snow date on 10th.

10. **Adjourn.** MOTION by R. Nelson to adjourn at 10:30 p.m. Second by D. Hershey. No discussion. Motion passes with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Schaeffner, Recording Secretary