

Town of Alton
Budget Committee Meeting
December 6, 2011
Approved March 12, 2012

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
M. DeCoff, Chair
L. Carr, Selectmen's Representative
S. Miller, Vice Chair
L. Tilly, Member
B. Howard, Member

Other Attendees:

R. Bailey
P. Hawksley, Budget Committee Secretary

3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda
Review of the Warrants
Additional information on Charities
S. Miller motions to approve agenda
M. DeCoff seconds
All in favor
5. Minutes
November 15 will be E-Mailed to members for review
November 10, minutes Motion by M. DeCoff to approve L. Tilly seconds,
All in favor
November 17, minutes Motion by S. Miller to approve, B. Howard seconds
All in favor
6. Old Business
7. New Business
Warrant Articles
Budget Review

Warrant Articles

S. Miller asked when is the last date for petitioned warrant articles. R. Bailey stated the 10th. S. Miller asked if a total dollar amount was available of the dollar warrant articles being presented, the budget ones. R. Bailey stated its about 1.4

S. Miller informed the board that V. MacDonald will be out of the hospital Monday or Tuesday.

B. Howard noted Article 22 says to raise and appropriate 20,000 and it is noted in parenthesis 10,000. R. Bailey stated it should be 10. B. Howard noted Article 25 says 6,218,000. R. Bailey stated he has not fixed this yet. M. DeCoff asked if they knew what the default budget was going to be. R. Bailey stated they are still finalizing it.

S. Miller, the superintendent of the high school requested a breakdown of the taxes. He needs a copy of the actual sheet.

L. Carr raised issue regarding money articles. Discussion on whether or not the Budget Committee can recommend or not recommend or has the ability to nay or yea a non-financial school item. M. DeCoff said these are money articles. R. Bailey stated it is not raising or appropriating any money. It is selling town property it is raising money. M. DeCoff asked once you get the revenue can we vote on where it goes. R. Bailey stated no, by statute it goes to general fund until it is directed in the article. S. Miller asked if the money was raised by a special warrant article, why can't it just be used to reduce the next year's taxes? R. Bailey it would have to be put in the article that way. M. DeCoff stated so the article can be amended on the floor. R. Bailey responded then it would just be the legality of what you want to amend it to. S. Miller stated seems that it would be an appropriate course. If we come up with the money on a special deal and the money comes back to us it really should come back to the taxpayers. L. Carr stated like property. S. Miller stated yes if it was a special warrant article we voted you can take our tax money and buy the property and the deal is consummated and you end up with the money, now that should come back off next year's taxes. B. Howard stated we would need to know for sure that it was purchased with tax dollars. Some of the land could have been donated, some for taxes. L. Carr stated it is revenue. S. Miller was thinking of the property at the transfer station, when that is sold, it seems appropriate that it should go back to the town as a refund. L. Carr through the tax rate.

Article 12

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purposes of funding for Police Vehicle Capital Reserve and to raise and appropriate **Thirty Two Thousand Dollars (\$32,000)** to be placed into the Fund. Also to vote to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the Police Vehicle Capital Reserve. {Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee ().]. A majority vote is required.

M. DeCoff stated he is going to vote no on this because he would like it specified in here that it is not going to be used for an SUV. S. Miller stated that he understands about the gas situation, but if the Police Chief needs an SUV for whatever reason, carrying prisoners, police dog etc. he should be the sole determiner on what he needs based on his work. B. Howard I don't think we are telling them to get a matchbox car, but doesn't see the need to have SUV lined up. There is no issue with the amount of money. This is building a capital reserve and then next year they could go buy an SUV. B. Howard agrees she would like to see some wording that it is going to be an economy car vs. a really large SUV. S. Miller stated this is an ongoing fund and once the fund is created what you are doing is locking everybody into an economy car forever. If you put that type of wording in there. Believes that decision should be up to the manager of the department. L. Tilly stated an economy car is not always an appropriate term when talking about replacing a cruiser. Understands mention of the SUV even that considering the weather issues, having a limited number of larger vehicles on the force is not a bad choice. I think having it as a Selectmen's managed fund vs. the department deciding what they want and when, which in the past that is how it has been. The department poses we need a new vehicle for X amount of dollars. Having to come up and have it approved that would put some of those checks and balances in. B. Howard stated could we leave it like this and when it is time to buy, they go before the voters to buy an SUV. L. Tilly stated it says they have to come to the Selectmen, as agents. If there is 70,000 they come to you, the decision point is then, it doesn't come back to the voters. L. Carr this goes to yes to buying a vehicle to the Selectmen are going to hopefully review it and say yes we need it or no we

don't. M. DeCoff asked if it could be used to refurbish a vehicle. L. Carr stated no. S. Miller said it is a good idea. It doesn't lock the police into buying a car that year. It gives them the flexibility to wait two or three years and buy a deal on two or three years if they want to. If it is a special kind of car they want, they could put 32 and 32 in instead of asking for 60,000 in one year. I think this type of article makes a lot of sense.

Pre-vote until after the public hearings

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

Budget Committee votes 4 in favor, 1 against

Article 13

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purposes of Fuel (gasoline, diesel, heating oil and propane) overage coverage for all town departments and to raise and appropriate Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed into the Fund. Also to vote to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the Fuel Overage Fund [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the budget committee ()] (A majority vote is required.)

S. Miller asked this means only actual fuel can be purchased, no equipment, no utilities. R. Bailey said yes. L. Carr stated adding Kerosene. One building is still using Kerosene

M. DeCoff Motion to approve Article 13 with the amendment of kerosene added to it.

L. Carr Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Budget Committee votes 5 – 0 in favor

Article 14

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **Forty Five thousand Dollars (\$45,000)** to be placed into the Town Hall Building Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required).

M. DeCoff Motion to approve Article 14

S. Miller Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes.

Budget Committee votes 5 – 0 in favor

Article 15

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Police Department Building Improvement Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required).

M. DeCoff asked is this needed to finish the addition. L. Carr stated no. It is other renovations to the old portion, plus to keep the Capital Reserve for future. L. Carr said no. It is for reserve. If this is not approved there will be nothing left. L. Carr stated it is like any of the reserves is it going to spike or are you going to be putting in a little at a time, like the Highway and Capital reserves, equipment for solid waste. There are some other things that we want to do in the old section. It will not be in this Phase. Currently have enough for current phase. Monies would be for next phase. B. Howard asked to you know how much you'll need for the old section for renovations. R.

Bailey stated talking about going up to the second floor. Well over 150,000 to 200,000. That was the original plan and it was scaled back.

S. Miller has a recommendation, has no problem with the number, but instead of where it says to be added to the Police Department Capital Improvement Fund, something of the effect to the public safety building improvement capital fund if you can do this for both the fire and police, when there is an issue for the fire department to expand, new equipment or whatever, you have the flexibility to use this fund especially if the police is done they are going to have to shut this down. Then you will have to go again for the fire department. If you do this and sell it for both, people will be hard pressed to turn down the police and fire. L. Carr stated Article 28 is the fire one. S. Miller continued you have more flexibility if this becomes a public safety one. R. Bailey responded we would have to create a new one. You can't just change the name. M. DeCoff stated this would be the perfect time if this one is going to be zero. S. Miller stated you could make a case that the Police Department has a lot of repairs to do and the Fire Department has a lot of repairs to do and we do it on a triage type of basis. Suggest you table and come back.

L. Carr stated we already have a warrant article for the fire department. We would have to get 2/3 to change it. Trying to change the capital reserve. B. Howard stated that if the two departments have the money blended is that going to create a logistical nightmare as far as doling it out. M. DeCoff stated some people may say a public safety complex.

S. Miller makes motion to take it back to the selectmen for their thoughts. L. Carr said he can bring it back to the selectmen.

No Second

L. Tilly agrees with B. Howard on the combined fund. Really concerned about the public sector. I see it in the private sector between departments.

Motion by L. Tilly to approve Article 15

L. Carr Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Budget Committee votes 5 – 0 in favor

Article 16

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (7,500)** for the purpose of revising and updating the personnel & policy manual. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2013. [Appropriate recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee()]
(A majority vote is required)

S. Miller asked if it will be done this year. R. Bailey stated it will be put out to bid and started. It should be done within the year. S. Miller asked if the bid is over 7,500 you will do it anyway? R. Bailey if it is within a reasonable amount. We feel this is a good number after talking to a consulting company.

M. DeCoff Motions to approve Article 16

S. Miller Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Budget Committee votes 5-0 in favor

Article 17

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (10,000) to be added to the sidewalk Capital reserve as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required.)

M. DeCoff asked this isn't to make new sidewalks, this is to upkeep sidewalks? L. Carr responded to fix the sidewalks. R. Bailey stated we are looking to go from the corner, out to the bank and to the other side to Barnes Ave. That is our goal and I will have some tentative numbers next week. B. Howard asked should it say repair existing sidewalks. Some people might interpret this as putting in new sidewalks that we have to maintain. R. Bailey stated we could add a sentence repair existing and note the location. L. Carr stated he thinks the board will go along with adding a repair or maintenance statement into the article. S. Miller stated you have 20,000 in there now. R. Bailey said it is down to about 14. It is our intention to use all of it to get from here to Barnes Ave. S. Miller I get frustrated when I see money in there and not being used. Suggest you try and do as much as you can.

M. DeCoff motions to accept Article 17

L. Carr Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Budget Committee votes 5 – 0 in favor

Article 18

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) to be added to the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. These funds are being used to deal with the contamination at the landfill and to meet the state regulatory requirements. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required.)

S. Miller asked how do you come up with 40,000.00. R. Bailey said we have to do a certain amount of engineering every year. The engineer has to deal with the state, provide an annual report, take all the test results and summarize them. It also gives us a cushion for one test well. Also some of the monitoring costs.

Motion by M. DeCoff to accept article 18

L. Carr Seconds

L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Budget Committee votes 5 – 0 in favor

Article 19

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be placed in the Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund, as previously established. Said funds are recommended by the Town Auditors to be used to pay for benefits accrued by Town Employees and redeemed when they leave employment with the Town of Alton, in accordance with the Town Personnel Policy. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required.)

R. Bailey stated before I was here the Auditors had recommended 2,000 or so. S. Miller asked do the auditors recommend the contribution or do they recommend 20,000.00 R. Bailey stated they just said we had to have a fund in there and we should try to estimate, when we know someone is going to retire. We know one person is coming up. S. Miller asked how much of the 20,000 will be used, R. Bailey stated if it is a normal turnover we will use that plus any left over. There is

about 18,000 left. S. Miller asked if do you really need 38,000 in there. That is generally two years worth. R. Bailey we won't spend 38, but we will spend in the 20's. S. Miller the question is there is no reason to build up a significant pot. R. Bailey said there was one year we didn't ask for any. S. Miller asked what is the most you will look to have in reserve in the pot. B. Howard asked what happens if there is no money in their. R. Bailey stated we would have to go into the Operating Budget. S. Miller your thought is to have a cushion of 20,000 in there give or take 2,000. R. Bailey stated you asked me to recommend, having at the most, no more than 40. S. Miller stated your intent is to build this up, the pot, to 40. R. Bailey stated we could have made it 15, we've done either 10 or 20 over the last 10 years. I know of at least of one for sure, you need to figure on 1 or 2 maybe 3. That will easily chew up into the 20's if it is an average year. What is a good reserve, you could argue either side of it.

S. Miller I would like to see in at 15. B. Howard would like to see it around 10. S. Miller if the selectmen came back with a different number, I would probably go with that number after they rethought it.

Motion by M. DeCoff to table Article 19

B. Howard seconds

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

Budget Committee votes 4-0 in favor and 1 against to table Article 19

Article 20

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00) to be added to the Building and Site Improvement Capital Reserve for the Transfer Station which also includes the EPA storm water management implementation requirements [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required.)

S. Miller you have 37813, this will bring it up to 73,000. Is that enough to do the job? R. Bailey said we also have the recycling Revolving Account. Based on our estimates that should be enough to get the paving done and go out for a bid on the roof. S. Miller asked and the intention is to get the roof done this coming year. R. Bailey responded yes.

Motion by M. DeCoff to accept Article 20

S. Miller Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Budget Committee votes 5-0 in favor

Article 21

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00) to be added to the Recreation/Grounds Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. The purpose of this Capital Reserve Fund is to fund maintenance equipment for the grounds, sidewalks, buildings and parks. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required.)

S. Miller stated you have 15659 in there and you have another 12,000, that is 28,000 and that is to purchase what equipment. R. Bailey the zero turn mower and the new attachment snow blower for the front of the new machine. S. Miller stated that is 12,000. There is enough money in the fund now. R. Bailey responded the board didn't want to deplete it down in case the tractor went or something else. The idea was to keep some money in there. B. Howard asked how old is the tractor. R. Bailey stated he would have to find out he just used it as an example. S. Miller stated it

seems to me you want 15,000 as a reserve, plus 12,000 to spend. If something breaks, costs up to 15,000. R. Bailey said we don't know for sure and the board did not want to deplete it. S. Miller stated what is in there is your buffer, and you are trying to fund the new equipment. My question is the new equipment the tractor and everything why isn't it in the Operating Budget under new equipment. R. Bailey because we haven't been putting stuff that expensive in there. L. Carr stated the CIP used to have anything over 5,000 that they wanted. S. Miller stated the way you are doing it is right asking the voters.

Motion by M. DeCoff to accept Article 21

S. Miller Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Budget Committee votes 5-0 in favor

Article 22

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the purpose of improving the East Side Restrooms by making handicap accessible to current ADA standards and by siding the exterior. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee ()] (A Majority vote is required.)

Should read Ten Thousand

B. Howard asked if we could take out the word **handicap** and replace **it**. L. Tilly when we discussed this we were brought up that we were locked in because the other specifically mentioned what set of restrooms. For this, you don't mention the specific restroom in case you realize you need to do something on the other one again and then you can't do the work. R. Bailey stated this 10 will be wiped out and this is not a reserve, this gets used. L. Tilly just want to make sure you are not bottle necking your self for no reason. This gets used. Will use it all. S. Miller because this isn't the purchase of one item, I would have put this in the Operating Budget. As opposed to voting up and down. R. Bailey stated it is something that has to be done. You have to meet ADA standards. You could change from improving East Side Rest Rooms to Improving town restrooms. R. Bailey stated he appreciates that. L. Tilly on the reference of having this in the Operating Budget the plus side of that would be if people decide to vote this down you couldn't move forward but if it was in the Operational Budget it could still be. R. Bailey if it gets voted down we still can't do it even if it is in the Operating Budget. S. Miller stated if you want you can come back and ask to increase the operating budget by 10,000.

Motion by M. DeCoff to accept Article 22 with change of amount and wording change.

B. Howard Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Budget Committee votes 5-0 in favor of Article 22 with changes

Article 23

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be added to the Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee ().] (A majority vote is required.)

L. Carr this is from the Milfoil Committee to pull, dive and treat with herbicides. S. Miller asked is this for all lakes or just Winnepesaukee? R. Bailey stated it includes the river. Discussion on whether other town lakes are included. L. Carr stated this company has a barge with special equipment. Putting priority in the worst areas.

Motion by M. DeCoff to accept Article 23

S. Miller Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Budget Committee votes 5-0 in favor of Article 23

Article 24

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) to be added to Senior Center Pearson Road Capital Reserve Fund [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required.)

Motion by to accept Article 24

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Budget Committee votes 5-0 in favor of Article 24

Article 26

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thirty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Eight Dollars (\$134,748.00) and to authorize the withdrawal of the \$134,748 from the Ambulance Operation Fund as previously established under RSA 31:95c for the purpose of funding the ambulance personnel wages, ambulance supplies & equipment, training and vehicle fuel/maintenance. This appropriation is covered by the revenue from the ambulance insurance payments and there will be no funds raised from general taxation. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required.)

Motion by S. Miller to accept Article 26

M. DeCoff Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Abstain, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Budget Committee votes 4-0 in favor, 1 Abstain

Article 27

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Six Thousand Dollars (\$36,000) for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a command/utility vehicle for the Fire Department. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2011. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee()] (A majority vote is required.)

R. Bailey stated he has it in here, as a reminder. The board has not made a final decision.

No vote will be taken on Article 27, open for discussion only

M. DeCoff stated he thought there was something in there last year that said new or used. R. Bailey and L. Carr stated yes it did. M. DeCoff stated so it has to say new or used. R. Bailey stated if it does go through believes it is on the table. S. Miller believes 36,000 is too much, 30-32,000 is more appropriate. Person is using his own pick up truck. You don't need a command vehicle with all the bells and whistles. B. Howard asked why not. If there is a disaster the fire department and police department are equipped. S. Miller do not budget for worst cast scenario. B. Howard stated on the flip side of that it could be a traffic stop, a cow in the road or an accident or shoot out. A fire is a fire and there could be people in the building. At a minimum it is always someone's personal property that is being destroyed. So when you look at the importance. M. DeCoff asked who came up with the 36,000. R. Bailey that is last year's number that went down to defeat. M.

DeCoff asked what number the chief came up with. L. Tilly asked is there a functionality requirement, best practice for the command vehicle for the Fire Department. R. Bailey stated you need to be able to carry people, equipment radio system, communicate with vehicles/dispatch. Discussion regarding SUV vs. 4-door pick up. S. Miller stated when he spoke to him he favors a four door pickup. You need to be able to access equipment. The chief's recommendation is 36,000. That will be for everything he needs to equipment it and there will be no additional cost. They do not have one now. Vehicle was used for the campfire. It was not a catastrophic situation. L. Carr will ask the chief to give us a breakdown.

Article 28

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Alton Fire Station Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required.)

There is 150 in there now. M. DeCoff stated it seems the monies are only being used for Central and East Alton, nothing for West Alton. R. Bailey stated West Alton is on hold. We have an existing building that we have a lease with for 1.00/year, which is really not sufficient, and a terrible location. The question is what do we do when the lease expires which is in the next two years. So currently on hold. Asked the chief to concentrate on Central right now. Worked on East last year or the year before. Central is where he needs to get a lot of work done. S. Miller asked how much total do you want in there. R. Bailey stated 200,000 – 300,000. S. Miller how much money do you need to get everything done this year? R. Bailey, we have asked him to come up with some phasing goals. Right now with this 50 we should be able to do another phase. They are looking to add on the ground level two bays and then go up, another floor and replace existing second floor. S. Miller stated it would cost between 50 and 70 a square foot. There is 150,000. s. Miller they already have a 150 in there. Is that enough to do the next phase for the next year? R. Bailey will get back with additional information for the next meeting. M. DeCoff asked if you add the two bays would it have to be sprinkled. R. Bailey wasn't sure. S. Miller is interested in what will be done in the next year and not create a buffer. L. Carr this is not a buffer; definitely want to do something with the Central Station. S. Miller 150,000 is not enough to start. L. Carr said not it was not enough.

Article 28 tabled Selectmen will provide additional information.

Article 29

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be added to the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. {Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee ()} (A Majority vote is required).

S. Miller asked if it is the Reed Bridge. R. Bailey said this covers any bridge that gets red listed and needs repair. Need to have money to get matching funds. If we have a bridge that gets red-listed next year we have to have some money in there to get on the list so we get the state to pay. B. Howard asked if we have the money do we have to have the state involved and get all the bells and whistles. That is overkill. R. Bailey stated we don't have to but even if we wanted to do the bridge without the bells and whistles we would still spend more than what our share would be. We only pay 20%, state pays 80%. We would still have to meet certain engineering requirements. It was an E3 Bridge handle up to 80 or 90,000. Discussion on weight of trucks crossing bridges.

Motion by M. DeCoff to recommend Article 29

S. Miller Seconds

Vote: L. Tilley Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Budget Committee votes 5-0 in favor

Article 30

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee ()] (A Majority vote is required).

Currently there is 70,000. This will be spent. A replacement truck is needed. Not added to fleet

Motion by S. Miller to Recommend Article 30

M. DeCoff Seconds

Vote: L. Tilley Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Budget Committee votes 5-0 in favor

Article 31

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00) to be added to the Highway Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. Said amount is partially offset by revenues from the Highway Block Grant Fund estimated to be \$193,735.13 is an annual appropriation that provides for the reconstruction of existing roadways. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required).

S. Miller asked how many miles would this do? R. Bailey it depends on what kind of miles you do. If it is full reconstruct vs. a shim and overly vs. a grind and pave. Example Trask road, a rough number about 2 miles, 10,000 feet be over 400,000, That is grind, pave and drainage work. About 43 a linear foot. Reconstruct. Shim and overlay is not as much. All depends on what we are going to do. Some roads don't need a full reconstruct. Selectmen are working on a list of about 15-20 roads putting priorities on for the next two years. That list right now totals about 4-5 million. Paving is where the money runs. S. Miller asked will it cost a million dollars this year. R. Bailey stated we are going to spend everything. The 193,735.13 is a block grant share of the highway coming back. We don't need to have it in there. A block grant from the state, the gas tax coming back. That is a rough number. It goes in there and say we are getting 193,753.13 and it is supposed to be used for roads. Supposed to spend a minimum of 193,735.13 it offsets the 750,000 and the cost to the taxpayers. Balance of coming forward 650,000, totals 1.3million. S. Miller asked and we are going to spend 1.3 million and R. Bailey stated that is the plan. B. Howard stated the roads are lasting.

Motion by M. DeCoff to recommend Article 31

B. Howard Seconds

Vote: L. Tilley Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Budget Committee votes 5-0 in favor of Article 31

Article 32

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Six Dollars (\$58,596.00) for the purpose of funding the non-profit agencies listed below. The Human Services agencies listed 1-11 have been approved by the town for funding for at least the last 3 years. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA32: 7VI and will not

lapse until completed by December 31st 2012. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required).

1.	Community Action Program	\$8,996.00
2.	Central NH VNA H& Hospice	\$12,000.00
3.	American Red Cross	\$2,215.00
4.	Alton Community Services	\$15,000.00
5.	Medication Bridge Prescription program	\$409.00
6.	New Beginnings	\$1500.00
7.	Genesis	\$10,076.00
8.	Caregivers Transportation	\$2000.00
9.	CASA Special Advocates Children	\$500.00
10.	Appalachian Mountain Teen Projects	\$2400.00
11.	Child & Family Services	\$2500.00
12.	Greater Lakes Children Advisory Center	\$1000.00
	Total	\$58,596.00

S. Miller has given a lot of thought to this one. Economically it is the right thing to do. Make a great case financially, it's simple, it cuts down on the number warrant article, etc. Obvious negative it takes away the ability of the town to vote on each article up or down. Even that wouldn't be a problem, but looking back at the past 2-3 years there have always been 1 or 2 that haven't passed. It becomes almost an entitlement now for the individual charity. It has a better possibility of passing; nobody is going to turn down for example Alton Community Services. Anybody can come up with any charity and put it in. The Board of Selectmen can probably not put it in, but would err on putting it in if there was a close vote. Only because Alton has a bunch of nice people. He stated he would vote against this because it takes away the taxpayers ability to either vote up or down or to vote it up. It takes away the ability to do that.

L. Carr discussed the board talked about the concerns and complaint after complaint of how long these are. It does give the option to discuss those things in the deliberative session. There is an argument on both sides.

B. Howard stated she would agree to fully fund the Alton Community Center. Would like to see Community Action Program down to 5,000, the Central NH VNA and Hospice down to 9, the American Red Cross down to 1, leave Medication Bridge Prescription Program, New Beginnings cut to 750, Genesis 0. S. Miller asked why 0 for Genesis. Because for that amount of money, they don't provide that much in services, they are in are the school, they get local, state, federal and funds from 8 different towns. S. Miller would like B. Howard to make that statement at the Deliberative Session. If she says she wants to drop Genesis to 0 still voting on the total number and there is no guarantee that Genesis would drop to 0. L. Carr stated well the Selectmen would honor, don't legally have to, but sure they would.

M. DeCoff stated if you want to reduce them, reduce them now and we'll figure out the total number and motion. R. Bailey stated you recommend or don't.

B. Howard continued she would leave Casa, the Caregivers Transportation, The Appalachian Teen Project cut to 1800, Child and Family Services and Greater Lakes Children 0 out because they are redundant.

Motion by M. DeCoff to accept Article 32

L. Carr Seconds

Discussion: S. Miller concerns about individual ones and there will be people at the Deliberative Session who are going to have some concerns and some that will say this will never be high enough. I think those voices should absolutely be heard. I am voting against it. L. Tilly I would prefer to see it broken out. I know there are always complaints about the number of warrant articles. I don't agree with all of the recommendations, but if they would be broken out there are a couple I would not recommend and others I don't think are getting enough attention. S. Miller rather than vote this to zero, I would prefer to see it tabled and the Selectmen have an opportunity to come back. R. Bailey you can vote to not recommend. I would like to send this back to the Selectmen. L. Carr will bring the concerns back to the Selectmen

M. DeCoff withdraws Motion to approve

Motion by S. Miller to table Article 32 until Selectmen decide on exact format

M. DeCoff seconds

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

Budget committee votes 4 in favor and 1 against to table Article 32

Budget Review

Public Input

Mr. Keen on Article 15 the current construction is this actually a plan? People can review, police station project that is under construction as we speak. Is there a plan? R. Bailey there is a plan that can be seen. Mr. Keen would like to see that at some point. The future projects, is there a plan for that as well. R. Bailey responded there was a plan we had from the architect a preliminary plan, but we would have to get a final plan before we start spending on the second phase. Mr. Keen I like plans with details, goals, achievable, milestones. When we have a project that involves multiple hundreds of thousands of dollars. I think as a taxpayer we deserve that and then we can measure progress. For instance we could have the select people have the Chief in and give us a progress update or whoever is the project manager. I think this will help eliminate a lot of confusion. This lack of planning is kind of endemic in the school as well, no real plan, come up with a final product and then they change it multiple times to make it fit. There is not a real plan. I would like to see a project plan.

Mr. Keen, on Article 31 on the highway, what is the fully burdened cost for an employee That 400,000 for Trask is that labor as well? R. Bailey stated that doesn't count as the Town's part that would be the contracted share. I'm just curious what our fully burdened cost of labor is when we are doing highways here. Per hour, insurance, etc. the whole thing retirement. Can I get a copy of the approved minutes from earlier? M. DeCoff asked which one? Mr. Keen stated the won with the School Committee presented. Mention of the sulfuric acid. Is it in there? I also have voted in the past for many of the organizations under the last warrant Article that was tabled. I am trying to appreciate both sides of the argument in terms of bravary and the voting and the Deliberative Sessions, etc. But I agree with B. Howard in the fact that there are some here that I would support unequivocally and there are others that I may not want to support at all. My convictions are such that I'll vote no if it is presented in that fashion.

Mr. Keen requested and received a copy of the minutes from November 17th meeting.

Budget Review

4131 - Budget Committee

Motion by S. Miller to approve budget for Budget Committee for 2,548.00.

M. DeCoff Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes
Approved 5 - 0

4130 – General Government

Motion by S. Miller to accept General Government as presented 344,898.00

M. DeCoff Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Approved 5 - 0

4132 - Town Clerk

Motion by M. DeCoff to accept at 91,401.00

S. Miller Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Approved 5 - 0

4140 – Elections and Registrations

Motion by S. Miller to accept at 15,508.00

Second M. DeCoff

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Approved 5 - 0

4133 – Tax Collector

Motion by S. Miller to accept at 68,375.00

L. Carr Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Approved 5 - 0

4145 - Computers and Telephones

Motion by S. Miller to accept at 104,244

M. DeCoff Seconds

Vote L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Approved 5 - 0

4153 - Legal

Motion by M. DeCoff to reduce line 184 to 10,000

S. Miller Seconds

Discussion: L. Carr asked for a reason. M. DeCoff stated because there is 15,000 in contingency fund if needed.

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

Approved 4 - 1

Reduced to 121,188

Motion by M. DeCoff to accept Legal Fees at 121,188

S. Miller Second

Vote; L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr No

Approved 4 - 1

4155 - Benefits not discussed at this time.

4191 - Planning

Reduced part time wages Line 015 to 5,330.00

L. Carr asked for the reason. B. Howard asked why do we even have a town planner. L. Carr stated because the town voted it in. R. Bailey stated they are busy. People are planning. Reason was because secretary was reduced from 720.00 to 360.00 and CIP meetings were reduced from 6 to 3.

Motion by M. DeCoff to accept at 114,242.00

L. Tilly Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Abstain, B. Howard No, L. Carr No

Motion failed, 2 approved, 1 abstained, 2 against

Motion made by B. Howard to reduce part wages to 5,330.00. Why did OT double. R Bailey overtime is for secretary at meetings. Right now spent 1,334.00. S. Miller asked is there a secretary at planning board meetings. There is no secretary at the ZBA meetings. R. Bailey stated they are paid out of this budget. B. Howard asked it all has to billed at overtime, there is no exchanging of a day off or anything like that. R. Bailey stated it is happening now because we reached what was budgeted. The Town Planner feels he needs to have the secretary at the meetings with him and during the day for the needs for the office. B. Howard states in this economy we should not be paying any overtime. To her that is a management issue. R. Bailey stated overtime is a tool for the management and some times is cheaper for overtime than hiring more people. That is a management decision when you look at the long term. B. Howard stated overtime is very costly. R. Bailey responded it could be more costly to add a person. B. Howard stated when you compare what is going on in this town for building compared to 5 years ago. R. Bailey planning activity has picked up. People are planning projects. It is higher than it was 2 years ago; it isn't what we were 5 years ago. We have more new building permits that any other town in the lakes region.

Motion by B. Howard to reduce bottom by 1.00 to 114,240.00

M. DeCoff Seconds

L. Carr amends to 2.00

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Abstain, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr No

Approved 3 in favor, 1 abstained, 1 against

4192 - Building

Motion by M. DeCoff to accept at 79,167

Discussion on whether amount was changed for line 163. It was determined that amount was not changed but written on handouts by mistake.

S. Miller seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Approved 5 – 0

4193 - Assessing

B. Howard would like to make a motion to eliminate the assessing dept altogether and zero fund it. Because I think that we are, this whole department is a colossal waste of money. We are only required by the state to assess and appraise once every 5 years and we can subcontract in the 5th year and do it all in one year. R. Bailey stated that would be completely dysfunctional for the town operations. If you think you have tax rate problems now and assessing problems people coming in and assessing their tax maps and review their files for their taxes. That would be a colossal mistake on the part of this committee. B. Howard disagrees she believes the town is spending money. I think the Assessing Department is going out and looking for revenues as evident by the multiple neighborhoods, the fact that we've had to have other people come in and straighten things

out because the model is not working and is being done every year. There are serious issues with the Assessing Department. We have some people get the card they throw it away and it is not a problem other people come and don't even get out of the car and their assessed and then some people aren't even looked at and their assessed. There are serious issues. R. Bailey stated he has 5 towns that are actually spending more. Wolfeboro, Moultonboro, Gilford

M. DeCoff asked if there was a second on the motion.

No second on the motion.

Motion by M. DeCoff to accept at 124,752.00

L. Carr seconds

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

Approved 4 - 1

4194 - Grounds and Maintenance

Line 021 Reduce to 10,486.00

Line 399 Reduce to 3,000

L. Carr asked for a reason. M. DeCoff responded have only spent 648.00 YTD

Line 699 Reduce to 1500.00

L. Carr asked for a reason. M. DeCoff responded have only spend 207.00

Line 899 Reduced to 400

Current expenditures for November 2011 is 259.00

Line 759 Eliminating 2,000

Expenditures to date were 1126.00

B. Howard stated she doesn't understand for the overtime why we just can't hire weekend help as weekend instead of paying our weekly help to work on the weekends. R. Bailey stated we don't hire for the weekends we have overlapped shifts. This overtime is probably 90% during the wintertime. Either nighttime or weekends. We can't hire someone based on snowstorms. We don't have them work weekends in the summer on overtime. B. Howard stated that is not how I understood it. This is overtime where we have to respond to mother nature. But we don't schedule overtime to cover shifts.

M. DeCoff stated line 021 was for overtime not lifeguards

Discussion on amount of line item.

Motion by S. Miller to level fund line 021 at the default budget of 9,324.00 which is higher than the 2011 budget of 8,813.00. Actual is the default budget.

M. DeCoff stated already spent this year 9,964.61

B. Howard Seconds

S. Miller takes back motion

B. Howard takes back second

Motion by S. Miller to accept at 223,851.00

L. Tilly Seconds

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

Approved 4 - 1

4195 - Cemetery

Motion by S. Miller to accept at 50,908

L. Carr Seconds

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

Approved 4 - 1

4196 - Insurance

Motion by S. Miller to accept at 172,287.

M. DeCoff Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Approved 5 - 0

4199 - Public TV

Motion by S. Miller to accept at 13,658.00

M. DeCoff Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Approved 5 - 0

4210 - Police Department

S. Miller asked if there was a standard for population for full time and part time. R. Bailey stated there is a national standard based on basic population. Year Round population. Alton is in the ballpark. R. Bailey can't quote at this time but believe it is 2.5 per 1000. R. Bailey can get the information. S. Miller stated that would mean 10 full time people and that includes the chief and we have 11. Alton currently has 12 officers. One of the positions is grant funded. Need to take into consideration geography, coverage of 7/24 etc. S. Miller asked if there is a standard on square miles. R. Bailey will have to look into that. S. Miller asked does the police dept have to have a chain of command, have a chief, Captain, lieutenant, sergeant, etc. R. Bailey said no. S. Miller asked in the summer we hire how many part timers. R. Bailey we use the part timers and full timers, we usually have a vacancy. That is when the overtime goes up a little bit. It is cheaper to do some overtime also depends on vacation schedule. S. Miller stated currently have 12 full time people and the way we cover summer is by using overtime. We try to have 7 part timers. B. Howard asked what is the summer population on the islands. The police don't patrol the islands. Not counting the island estimate the population is in the range of 12-13000. R. Bailey stated that is based on OSP and studies that have been done. We are about 51% of the homes are year round. Discussion regarding geography, police coverage and mutual aid.

L. Carr stated you want to cut officers, how is that going to help. Selectmen have been looking at different parts of the budget to try and keep it down. Believes people in town want police coverage. Look at crime rate in comparison to other Epsom. Crime rate of 3 of 5 compared to 4.75.

M. DeCoff we have had the lieutenant position open all year and lived without it. Discussion are you saying you couldn't live without it for another year to see if the economy turns around. L. Carr stated if you want to live with the overtime for the other people. We are paying overtime now.

Motion by M. DeCoff to reduce Line 011 by 69,326.40

B. Howard Seconds

Motion by M. DeCoff to reduce Line 011 to 559,497

B. Howard Seconds

Discussion: L. Tilly that position even though budgeted has been empty for about a year and the rest of the staff has been filling in for that position. S. Miller does anybody know how much time the lieutenant spends on the road patrolling? When the lieutenant is on and the chief is not is the lieutenant in an administrative capacity. R. Bailey stated part of the time. Depends on the activity

level or incident. There is a sergeant on the road; if there is a serious incident they could call the lieutenant or chief whether he is at home or not. If a senior officer has to be on scene a senior officer will be there.

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr No
Approved 4 – 1

Line 304 Reduced to 3942.00
Line 309 Reduced to 4500.00

Motion by M. DeCoff to approve at 1,003,555.00
S. Miller Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr No
Approved 4 – 1

4220 - Fire Department

Motion by S. Miller to accept at 301,325.00

B. Howard Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Abstain, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes
Approved 5 – 0

4290 - Emergency Management

Motion by S. Miller to accept at 3,528

M. DeCoff Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes
Approved 5 – 0

4312 - Highway Department

Line Item 599 reduced to 1500

Motion by M. DeCoff to accept at 1,024,661.00

S. Miller Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr No
Approved 4 – 1

4316 - Street Lighting

S. Miller asked if R. Bailey had any further information. R. Bailey responded there haven't been any changes this year. We have everything changed over to the energy efficient. There weren't any changes. S. Miller stated that the amount looks high in comparison to other towns. R. Bailey stated the surrounding towns have the same electric company. It depends on the type of lighting and the location. R. Bailey stated that he would make a commitment to meet with the Electric Company in 2012. S. Miller would like a per light cost.

Motion by S. Miller to accept at 29,516.00

L. Carr Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes
Approved 5 – 0

4324 - Solid Waste

Line 183 reduced to 1.00

Motion by M. DeCoff accept at 436,786

L. Tilly Seconds

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

Approved 4 – 1

4326 - Hazardous Waste

R. Bailey stated there is another bill coming in. We are going to end up around 14-15 for this year. Also includes prescription drug disposal. More advertising next year.

Motion by S. Miller to reduce line to 17,000

B. Howard Seconds

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

Approved 4 – 1

4331 - Water Department

Reduced line 016 to 3500

Reduced line 175 to 2760

Reduced line 214 to 4,000

Reduced line 299 to 500

Motion by M. DeCoff to accept at 313,073.00

S. Miller Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr No

(S. Miller cannot be heard voting by recorder or on tape)

Record verbally confirmed with S. Miller his vote was Yes

Approved 4 – 1

4414 - Animal control

S. Miller Recommend to reduce and level fund to 8,691.00.

B. Howard Seconds

Discussion: R. Bailey stated that YTD actual is 9,657.00. Not planning on hiring one.

S. Miller adjusts motion to reduce to 10,500 from 13,178.00

B. Howard Second's adjustment

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

Approved 4 – 1

4442 - Welfare

Motion by S. Miller to accept at 75,080.00

L. Tilly Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Approved 5 – 0

4520 - Parks and Recs

Line 015 reduced to 9500

Line 110 reduced to 500

Motion by M. DeCoff to accept at 80,569.00

S. Miller Seconds

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

Approved 4 – 1

4550 - Library

Line 135 raised to 10,000

Motion by M. DeCoff to accept at 127,131.00

L. Tilly Seconds

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

Approved 4 - 1

4575 - Gilman Museum

Motion by M. DeCoff to accept at 11,543

B. Howard Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Approved 5 - 0

4583 - Patriotic

Motion by S. Miller to accept 22,000

M. DeCoff Seconds

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

Approved 5 - 0

4612 - Conservation

Motion by S. Miller to accept at 12,466

M. DeCoff Seconds

L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Approved 5 - 0

4723 - Tax Loan

Motion by S. Miller to accept 1.00 for short-term debt

M. DeCoff Seconds

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Approved 5 - 0

No meeting Thursday

9. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn

All in favor, 9:00pm

Approved March 12, 2012

Respectfully submitted

