

**Budget Committee Meeting**  
**Approved Meeting Minutes (1/9/2019)**  
**December 13, 2018 @ 6:30 PM**  
**Alton Town Hall**  
**1 Monument Square, Alton, NH 03809**

1. Call to order at 6:30 pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Roger Nelson, Chairman  
Patrick O'Brien, Member  
Beth Varney, Member  
David Hershey, Member  
Reuben Wentworth, Selectmen Representative  
Karen Kharitonov, School Board Representative

Liz Dione, Town Administrator  
Troy Neff, Finance Administrator

4. Approval of Agenda

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Agenda as presented. Second by G. Fuller. No discussion.  
Motion passes with all in favor.

5. Approval of Minutes

- November 29, 2018  
Correction on page 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> line down on Benefits change "\$6000" to "\$9000".  
Correction on page 3, K. Kharitonov add "and Administration".  
MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Minutes of November 29, 2018 as corrected. Second by K. Kharitonov. No discussion. Motion passes with 6 in favor and 1 abstention.
- December 4, 2018  
Correction on page 2, Conservation Commission, 2<sup>nd</sup> line, change "\$14,590" to "\$14,950".  
Correction on Page 3, Fire. Final number change from "\$929,907" to "\$920907"  
Page 1, Assessing change line, take out Historically, and correct 20% to 15%.  
MOTION by D. Hershey to approve the Minutes of December 4, 2018 as corrected. Second by R. Nelson. Motion passes with 6 in favor and 1 abstention.

6. Old Business

- a) Town Benefits. New bottom line number \$1,466,317  
MOTION by R. Nelson to accept revised Benefit total number of \$1,466,317. Second by D. Hershey. No discussion. Motion passes (4 yes, 3 no).
- b) Elections & Registrations - R. Nelson referred to the email that was sent to provide more information.
- c) Finalize Town Budget.  
MOTION by R. Nelson to accept the revised total number for the Town of Alton Budget of \$7,899,791. Second by D. Hershey. No discussion. Motion passes (4 yes, 3 no).

## 7. New Business

G. Fuller noted he never received a copy of encumbrances that he requested. K. Kharitonov gave him a copy.

a) Review and Finalize School Budget. Alton Central School only.

General discussion on monies returned at the end of each year. R. Nelson noted the numbers have been different every year on what is returned. Not a common thread to pick a particular department to determine a specific amount.

K. Kharitonov added the school board has struggled with this in past.  $\frac{1}{2}$  return is unanticipated revenue. General explanation of some of the return of funds each year.

General discussion on cutting funds with regard to returning funds at the end of the year.

R. Nelson suggested for K. Kharitonov or school board rep for next year to look into this question of the large amount of funds that are returned at the end of the year and how can planning be done with the budget to fix this problem. Noted nothing consistent to even pick a department to determine a specific amount.

R. Nelson asked for a report for number of teachers at ACS. Noted losing 6 teachers of over 100 population decrease. Concern that trending is going in the wrong direction.

P Stiles updated some highlights of the proposed budget. Budget up  $\frac{1}{2}$  percent over current year. No change in student staffing. Eliminating an office staff position and speech assistants due to student needs. Funding 2 retirements. \$85,000 increase health and dental premiums, \$24,000 increase in special ed. (replacement cycle). Significant increases and decreases with dues and fees and services. Several line adjustments in this case. 8 buses down to 7 due to enrollment. Installing energy efficient lighting in gym, 2 classroom floors replaced, and complete door replacement project. Fuel costs are 2.65 a gal. NH retirement with larger contribution \$25,000. Salary adjustment line for merit increase for non-collectively bargaining staffing, basically a pool. Line 307 Other administration, and special education, support staff - 51 employees in this group. Last year for paying on bond. Whenever possible use grant funding.

Fund 1, Alton Central School.  
Share of proposed - \$11,187,001.

General discussion on encumbrances on well water usage. Well was encumbered in June and was approved by the School Board.

General discussion on what has been left over each year and after spending.

General discussion on the decision by the School Board for the well.

b) Review and Finalize School Warrant Articles.

Article II consideration.

MOTION by R. Nelson to consider and approve the Alton Central School portion (\$11,187,001) of the operating budget. Prospect added in at later time once it is approved. Second by D. Hershey. Discussion. MOTION by G. Fuller would like to put off until Jan 3 until have all final numbers NO SECOND. Motion fails. Continued discussion. R. Wentworth questioned on approving this with regard to reducing the merit for the town employees but not the School Employees. How can we do this to town employees and not school? P. Stiles noted school employees do not get cola, receive merit only. Budget Committee changed town to 2%. Amendment to original motion by G. Fuller to put off voting to January 3 meeting. Second by D. Hershey. No discussion. Motion passes (6 yes, 1 no).

Article III consideration.

MOTION by G. Fuller to accept Article III as presented. Second by R. Nelson. Discussion. This is for the irrigation. General discussion on project. Motion passes (6 yes, 1 no).

Article IV consideration.

MOTION by R. Nelson accept Article IV as presented. Second by D. Hershey. Discussion. G. Fuller has concern for negative balance, P. Stiles informed they are looking at how they are going to address this. G. Fuller would like to know what is to be done if you overspend a trust fund. P. Stiles stated they are looking into how this happened. This is the end of a phase in this project. G. Fuller would like to know if this is legal on what has been done. Motion passes (6 yes, 1 no).

Article V consideration.

MOTION by G. Fuller to defer consideration to January 3. Second by R. Nelson. Discussion. D. Hershey has a question on PMHS Alton/Barnstead split. K. Kharitonov informed 57 percent Alton. Motion passes (7 yes).

#### 8. Public Input.

Loring Carr would like to thank the School Board for putting in Article VI. He would also like to encourage Budget Committee to see specs on the well project. Feels it was done very poorly. Asked if the School Board is making sure bid are going out properly with more than one bid. General discussion on this process.

Public Input closed.

#### 9. Other Business

- a) Date for Town Warrant Article Review and Finalize. January 3 at 6:30 p.m.
- b) Public Hearing Date, January 9, snow date Jan 10.

10. Adjourn. MOTION by R. Nelson to adjourn meeting at 7:53 p.m. Second by D. Hershey. No discussion. Motion passes with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Schaeffner, Recording Secretary