

January 3, 2012
Budget Committee Meeting
Public Meeting
Approved March 12, 2012

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

Other attendees:
R. Bailey, Town Administrator
P. Hawksley, Budget Committee Secretary
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda
Motion by L. Carr to approve agenda as presented
V. MacDonald seconds
All in favor

S. Miller because it is a public hearing people will still be watching this on TV. What you might want to do is go over

M. DeCoff start with General Government

General Government – 344,898.00 Selectmen's Recommendation
Budget Committee, 2,548.00
Town Clerk – 91,401.00
Tax Collector – 68,375.00
Elections and Registrations, went up because it is a primary year – 15,508.00
Computer and Telephone 104,244.00 New Line – Phone system was being added
Legal reduced by 15,000.00 to 121,188
Benefits -1,142,022.00
Planning – 114,242.00
Code and Building 79,032.00
Assessing - 124,752.00
Parks and Rec – Added to part time, 223,112.00
Cemetery 50,732.00 – went with Selectmen's recommendation
Insurance - 172,287.00
Public TV – 13,658.00
Police Dept removed position – 999,182.00
Fire Dept – 301,325.00
S. Miller for the record we can't remove a position but we reduced the salary line.
Emergency Mgt 3,528.00
Highway – 1,024,646, reduced wetlands by 1500.00
Street Lights - 29,516.00

Solid Waste – 436,654.00 reduced advertising line by 99 and left 1.00 to leave line open
Hazard Waste – 17,000.00, lowered to actual
Water Dept 312,935.00
Animal Control – reduced to 10,500.00
Welfare – 75,080.00
Recreation Dept – 80,569.00 reduced lifeguard and meetings
Library – 127,131 – increased book line
Gilman Museum 11,543.00
Patriotic 22,000.00
Conservation 12,466.00 and 1.00 for short term

Total Budget 6,132,075.00. Compared to last year 6,150,709.00

This year's budget is lower than default budget of last year.

S. Miller asked if there was any estimate of default budget will be based on the budget committee numbers.

M. DeCoff stated bottom line for default budget is 6,215,600.00

S. Miller the default budget is higher than the recommended budget from the Budget Committee, and if there were no changes on the floor of the Deliberative Session, if the Budget Committee recommendation is turned down the budget would in fact go up if the default budget was mandated for use.

M. DeCoff asked how does this compare to the budget that failed last year? R. Bailey stated he will look it up.

R. Bailey estimated revenue, very conservative, estimate entire year of 2012,

Estimated revenue for 2012 is 2,351,774.62. V. MacDonald taken off what we raise.

R. Bailey this is based on what is approved by the voters and then subtracted from it before the rate is set.

S. Miller the Police Department default budget is higher than the recommended Budget Committee budget is that because, R. Bailey stated the officer is still in there. S. Miller that is no longer a contracted item because we no longer have that filled. R. Bailey doesn't have to be filled to come forward on a default. Default is basically taking the budget you have and moving forward, without any contractual or legal change, removing person from the budget is neither legal nor contractual.

S. Miller every case where the Budget Committee may recommend a reduction in the salary line that reduction is not followed through to the default budget. R. Bailey responded not unless it is also recommended by the Selectmen as part of a re-organization.

S. Miller asked L. Carr to brief us on the recommendations the Selectmen may have agreed with on our reductions and which ones they did not.

M. DeCoff stated basically the default budget has all the numbers from last year. The Fire Department stayed the same, even though, and he wouldn't reduce it in the default budget.

L. Carr stated it is last year's budget plus or minus contractual obligations.

- Legal fees 4153 – selectmen stayed with the 25,000, where the Budget Committee took it out of the contingency. SM how does that get carried over into the default budget. R. Bailey if it was last year's it just rolls over
- CIP 4191 – On the Part Time Wages reduced 6 to 3 meetings selectmen went along with BUDGET COMMITTEE recommendation
- 4194 – Grounds and Maintenance Selectmen stayed with their number of 11,594.
Dock expense selectmen went along with BUDGET COMMITTEE recommendation of 3,000. Theirs was 4,000.00 originally

- Liberty Park Improvements - Selectmen stayed with their number of 2280. Budget Committee had recommended 1500.
- Railroad Square Park Budget Committee cut the globes Selectmen went along with 2000 Budget Committee recommendation
- Electricity for Rail Road - Budget Committee recommended 400.00. Original recommendation was 600.00 Selectmen asked for a compromise with 500.00,
- 4210 Police Dept – Selectmen asked Budget Committee to consider instead of cutting the lieutenants pay of 69,326, to cut it to a certified patrolman of 48,235 as a compromise, benefits would have to be adjusted. S. Miller asked is that an entrance level position. L. Carr stated yes. M. DeCoff asked I thought all the other positions were filled? L. Carr we are under the impression that we should have the coverage. You are cutting 40 hours out of the police hours. The Selectmen are asking for a compromise to keep the 40 hours in and to change it to the lower. S. Miller asked does the lieutenant patrol regularly? L. Carr stated no not regularly, some. M. DeCoff on the lieutenant instead of 69, you want us to make it 48,235 to keep the 40 hours. L. Carr stated with all the break ins and everything that is happening now we should still have the 40 hours. M. DeCoff stated you are going to bring a person on? V. MacDonald going to bring on patrolman. L. Carr we still think we should have the 40 hours of coverage plus add in another little item.

There was a cop's grant that was accepted 2 years ago, this is the 3rd year. Part of that grant was that we had to have 3 years, plus 1 year of payment on the town. Now if we cut this position that is cutting down on the number of police officers. Position was to add police officers on the street. M. DeCoff asked to see the grant where it says to add. V. MacDonald stated you got the grant, you added a cop. Why can't this take over this position. L. Carr the way the grant works is to increase the number of police on the streets. If you have 7 people, the grant is you hire the 8th person. V. MacDonald it is another way of increasing our department. We end up paying for it. L. Carr stated yes if you keep it for the 4th year. M. DeCoff, we get three years free and pay for 1 year. V. MacDonald, you keep paying because you never get rid of them. That's how we ended up getting this department so large to begin with. L. Carr if you cut the position then we are renegeing on the grant. V. MacDonald if we cut that we lose the grant officer too, we'll lose both positions. L. Carr no, there is a possibility that we may have to pay back the money for the past 2 years. I'm not using this as a strong-arm tactic. It is gray. The attorney has looked at this. It is a real gray area. R. Bailey it is 60/40 that we will be OK. S. Miller you are not reducing the police on the street. You are reducing the administrative position, not somebody on patrol. L. Carr it doesn't work that way. R. Bailey they look at total number on the grant. B. Howard I remember asking about this. Originally somebody was going to retire and we thought that with this grant we'd bring in the new officer as the other one was retiring but the way the grant was written you couldn't replace a position, you had to add a position. The grant paid for it for 2 years. And the town paid for the 3rd year. We are not allowed to cut. The whole focus of the grant was to increase the Police Department by a position. R. Bailey actually 3 years and 1. There is an officer who is looking to retire in a year or two. M. DeCoff are we already in violation because we haven't replaced the officer? R. Bailey no we never got rid of the position and we were going to fill it come January. M. DeCoff but there were still not enough officers.

S. Miller stated if there is still an opening whether there is money in there or not you are not in violation. To be in violation it doesn't say you have to have 48,000 in the budget it just says actively recruiting, somewhat recruiting, have an open position are advertising for it. You have to prove that you have not lowered your police force.

L. Carr there is some leeway in there. There is an item in there about budget cuts.

R. Bailey read item regarding budget cuts, "Grant recipients may not reduce the sworn office budget just to take advantage of the grant." R. Bailey commented there is no question we would all be able to testify that it had nothing to do with the grant. R. Bailey continued "Any budget cuts must be for fiscal reasons unrelated to receipt of the grant funds to avoid a violation of the non-supplanting requirement." Attorney can't make any guarantee. The board felt that the Budget Committee should be aware of it in the event we are audited a year or 2 from now.

B. Howard I think we would be OK, we haven't just cut the police dept. We have cut other departments.

R. Bailey strong feeling we would have a strong case to defend the decision of the Budget Committee, but also have an obligation that grant exists, rules exist in case we get audited start questioning what we did.

B. Howard in two years down the road, we would incur legal fees. R. Bailey stated the grant would be 250,000.00

S. Miller this is a long-term decision. Your adding a person your not going to cut in the next 3, 4, 5 years. On Issue of break ins, adding more feet will help, never hurt, there has been no emergency to hire a person to go on the street until now. It is something that will help and benefit us. It is not critical to the town of Alton right now.

L. Carr we fee keeping what we have is better than losing the 40 hours. If you cut 40 hours out there will be less people on the street.

S. Miller if hypothetically if the Budget committee would agree to putting back the 48,325 that means you would you hire a patrolman with that money correct? We wouldn't do it if you are not going to hire a patrolman.

L. Carr would need to talk to the chief on how he would re-organize this before I could say yes.

S. Miller if this is just a way to get part of the lieutenants salary back to get to hire a lieutenant or to promote somebody than I don't have an interest in that. If you saying to me we are going to take the 48,325 to hire a patrolman that is something I can think about.

L. Carr states interim chief believes we should have another sergeant and not have a lieutenant.

S. Miller take somebody who is making around 50,000 pay him the sergeant's salary and this comes in and becomes a patrolman. Obviously gotten along so far without a lieutenant,

L. Carr the person is still missing and somebody has to make up that time in the office making it up with part timers. S. Miller you are able to manage with the part timers. L. Carr it is still the 40 hours, it has to be filled up

M. DeCoff questioned since taking the grant, have we hired an officer after taking that grant. So we have a grant officer and then hired another one?

R. Bailey Only a replacement. M. DeCoff so we have not hired new. L. Carr No. M. DeCoff since the grant it has only been the grant officer, nobody new. R. Bailey no.

L. Carr same number of people plus the grant officer.

V. MacDonald cheaper to pay part-time and not pay benefits

S. Miller asked how much is the grant officer making. L. Carr 48,235

M. DeCoff so how is that a 250,000 grant?

R. Bailey includes benefits, retirement, etc

- Fuel – selectmen keeping their recommendation of 5520, you had 3952. Selectmen don't feel there is enough history because we just switched over to propane. R. Bailey we haven't changed over yet, still using kerosene

- Building Expense – 5267 down to 4500 selectmen agree with Budget Committee
- Highway Budget Committee went to 1500 on delineation of wetlands selectmen agree with Budget Committee
- Solid Waste – advertising selectmen agree with Budget Committee reducing to 1.00
- Water Dept – Part Time Wages, request was 5000, Budget Committee dropped to 3500 Selectmen agreed with Budget Committee
- Telephone – Request was 3240, Budget Committee reduced to 2760 Selectmen agreed with Budget Committee
- Water Dept – Vehicle Fuel request was for 4465 Budget Committee reduced to 4000 selectmen agree with Budget Committee, discussion on amount
- Water Dept – Leavy Park Lease request was for 1000, Budget Committee reduced to 500 Selectmen agreed with Budget Committee
- Animal Control – selectmen agreed with Budget Committee for 10,500
- Library Books – Budget Committee increase to 10,000 over 7708 selectmen agreed with Budget Committee

Discussion on adding Animal Control officer

S. Miller is it possible on the police officer to call whom ever gave us the grant tells them what our situation is and get an opinion. We don't want to put the town up for a 250,000 liability.

L. Carr need to finalize the budget tonight, Budget Committee can't cut any money after tonight.

B. Howard why wasn't the question asked about the grant before now.

L. Carr because when the Budget Committee made the cut we contacted J. Sessler and he read through it and gave an opinion.

S. Miller is inclined to leave it as is and ask the town administrator make that phone call and at some later date vote on it after the public hearing, before the deliberative session.

L. Carr you can't add any money after tonight.

S. Miller asked if we could cut money after tonight. L. Carr stated yes

M. DeCoff we could add it in and then cut it. S. Miller the safe thing to do is add it in and then depending upon whatever input is received we have the ability to adjust it if we want.

V. MacDonald asked what happens if we increase animal control? They can have a patrol officer and an animal control officer. Same number.

S. Miller does that count as the grant a police officer and animal control? R. Bailey it has to be full time. We don't have a single person. If a patrolman is on duty and he gets a call on animal control business he charges his time for dealing with the animal to the animal control budget. V. MacDonald if we increase the animal control budget to put a patrolman on that animal control we could still keep the lieutenant right out of it that doesn't interfere with the grant because they still have the same number of officers there. M. DeCoff he is talking about making Animal control a full time position. Discussion on increasing animal control budget changing it to a full time position.

M. DeCoff would only be adding 38,000

S. Miller prior to Budget Committee recommending the reduction and salary of the police line did the chief put in a written recommendation for a police officer. Did he formally request in any way request and additional police officer.

R. Bailey no.

**M. DeCoff makes motion for animal control salary line increase 37735.00,
Plus mandated benefits, retirement, FICA,
S. Miller Seconds**

Discussion: V. MacDonald can they add FICA after tonight?

R. Bailey added under benefits section. Miller stated everything is fine.

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

M. DeCoff motion for 48235 bottom line for animal control

S. Miller Seconds

Discussion: When animal control was discussed. They wanted a police office as animal control. Discussion on if this belongs in animal control.

R. Bailey It meets the requirement of the grant because this person will be a full time certified officer.

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

Motion Approved 6 – 0

Bottom line budget need to add 37,735.00

Total: 6,169,810.00,

Motion by M. DeCoff for bottom line of 6,169,810.00

L. Tilly Seconds

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

For record purposes articles pertaining to money appropriation were read into the record.

Article 16

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 (\$32,000.00)** to be placed into the Fund. This sum (\$32,000.00) to come from DEA Asset Forfeiture funds and no amount to be raised from taxation. 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 (5-0) (A majority vote is required)]

Article 17

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, kerosene and propane) overage coverage for all town departments and to raise and appropriate **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** 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 (5-0) (A majority vote is required)]

Article 18

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **Forty Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000.00)** to be placed into the Town Hall Building Improvement Capital Reserve fund as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Article 19

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00)** 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 (6-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Selectmen are asking to amend amount to from 50,000 to 25,000

V. MacDonald makes motion to reduce to 25,000

M. DeCoff Seconds

Discussion: The new addition there will be long enough lead between that and phase two to build it up.

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

Motion Approved 6 – 0

Article 20

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7500.00)** 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. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Article 21

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** to be added to the Sidewalk Capital reserve as previously established for the upgrade and maintenance of existing sidewalks. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

L. Carr discussion on whether or not since school department did not send a representative if their vote should read, “abstain” instead of not being counted at all.

R. Bailey you must be present to abstain but will check into it further.

Article 22

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 (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Article 23

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00)** 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 (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Article 24

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 (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Article 25

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 (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Article 26

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000)** for the purpose of improving the Alton Bay Restrooms to meet current ADA accessibility standards and by siding the exterior. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Article 27

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 (5-0)] (Majority vote is required)

Article 28

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

Article 29

Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **Six Million One Hundred Sixty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Ten Dollars (\$6,169,810.00)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Six Million Two Hundred Fifteen Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$6,215,600.00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Alton or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. (A majority vote is required)

Should read: Six million one hundred sixty nine

Article 30

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 \$134,748.00 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 (4-0-1)] (A majority vote is required)

Should read 4 – 0 – 1

Abstention should be the last number noted on approval.

Article 31

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty Six Thousand Dollars (\$36,000.00)** for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new or used command/utility vehicle for the Fire Department. This sum (\$36,000.00) to come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount to be raised from new taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2012. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-0-1)] (A majority vote is required)

Should read 4 – 0 – 1

Article 32

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 (4-0-1)] (A majority vote is required)

Should read 4 – 0 – 1

Article 33

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 (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Article 34

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 (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Article 35

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 \$167,077.25 is an annual appropriation that provides for the reconstruction of existing roadways. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is require)

Article 36

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Six Dollars (\$8,996.00)** for the purpose of supporting the Community Action Program which provides supplemental food, fuel, utility, transportation, meals on wheels, weatherization assistance, Women, Infants and Children food assistance program (WIC). This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2012. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Article 37

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00)** for the purpose of supporting the Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice which is a non-profit agency that provides health care, hospice care and maternal child health services. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or

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

Article 38

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$2,215.00)** for the purpose of supporting the American Red Cross which provides disaster relief, shelters, basic household necessities and counseling. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2012. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and not recommended by the Budget Committee (3-2)] (A majority vote is required)

S. Miller asked if not recommended by the Budget Committee should vote by the budget committee read 3-2. R. Bailey stated it should read majority voted against 3-2.

Article 39

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00)** for the purpose of supporting the Alton Community Services which provides a food pantry and assistance programs for fuel, prescriptions, utilities and housing in close coordination with the Alton Welfare Department. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2012. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Did the budget committee increase that number?

S. Miller Make motion to add 2215.00 to Alton community Services

No Second

M. DeCoff motion to accept at 15,000.00

L. Tilly Seconds

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

S. Miller requested to change his vote from No to Yes

Vote will read 6 - 0

Article 40

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Four Hundred Nine Dollars (\$409.00)** for the purpose of supporting the Medication Bridge Prescription Program which is a not for profit volunteer program that provides assistance to residents in need of prescriptions in coordination with the Alton Welfare Department. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2012. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Article 41

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00)** for the purpose of supporting the New Beginnings which provides 24 hour crisis support for domestic/sexual assault victims, operates a shelter and provides counseling. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2012. [Appropriation is recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Article 42

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Seventy Six Dollars (\$10,076.00)** for the purpose of supporting Genesis which provides mental health care to area residents, services for children, elders, along with other emergency services. This will be a

non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2012. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (3-2)] (A majority vote is required)

Article 43

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00)** for the purpose of supporting Caregivers Transportation which provides free transportation to handicapped, elderly and other residents needing assistance with all these services provided by volunteers. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2012. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Article 44

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)** for the purpose of supporting CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) which provides advocacy for abused and neglected children. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2012. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Article 45

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,400.00)** for the purpose of supporting Appalachian Mountain Teen Project. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2012. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-1)] (A majority vote is required)

Article 46

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00)** for the purpose of supporting Child & Family Services. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2012. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-1)] (A majority vote is required)

Article 47

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00)** for the purpose of supporting Greater Lakes Children Advisory Center. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2012. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and not recommended by the Budget Committee (4-1)] (A majority vote is required)

S. Miller this years default budget is 6,215,600.00 previous default 5,799,976.00 that's a difference of 415,000.00. R. Bailey the default budget would be 6,150,709. The difference would be 65,000 which is the one position and benefits.

M. DeCoff asked how much is left over in the operating budget from last year. R. Bailey Estimating around 100.

S. Miller that is a nice job. Working on a default budget and coming in under the default budget. Is a job well done.

V. MacDonald regarding article 14. Are we really considering selling this when we haven't been monitoring it, the old town landfill? Discussion regarding the clean up of the land. Believes opening a can of worms by trying to sell the land.

Discussion on selling Echo Point. Discussion on the right to access a private road to access town property. Turning property owned by town into parking for access to the lake.

Public Input

No Public Input

Closed public hearing at 7:20 pm.

Budget Committee Work Session at 7:20 pm

S. Miller we have to decide whether it is appropriate in the line for the operating budget for the high school that we can reduce that line by the proportioned amount of 127,000.00 from Alton which is going to be 51%. V. MacDonald asked is Barnstead going to do the same. S. Miller stated Barnstead is not SB210, they have a town meeting. I Don't know, we know what they have done in the past but I don't know what they are going to do because there is no deliberative session. Their town meeting has been after our deliberative session. It is meaningful if we decide to something. My personal opinion is that if we don't do it why are we sending anybody there anyway from now on. Why do we have a joint budget committee if we're not going to act on own recommendations? V. MacDonald asked did the school, usually the school will agree with what we cut. S. Miller we don't know M. DeCoff will find that number out tomorrow. S. Miller stated the issue that I'm told is whether we cut it or not their position is that we still have to put it in. They have to pay it out of other funds. S. Miller asked Loring you have been on the School Board before is that true if we cut it out does Alton Central still have to pay that 65,000 out of some other area too. V. MacDonald stated not if Barnstead cuts it to then we don't. L. Carr stated I think that's the problem with the contract. It also says in the contract they have to fund 95%. Later on in the contract about those numbers the new school attorney said that was a red herring that is an obligation in that contract there's an obligation to fund it of what the joint school board recommends. That was the issue on who's right and who's wrong. There is a gray area, never been tested. S. Miller do both towns have to agree. L. Carr that is the other issue that has never been addressed. That's why we have gone down to DRA and discussed these issues and brought warrant article to straighten out these issues and it was defeated on the floor. Amendments where we said to have a committee, to work on this and someone put in there to NOT work on this. The DRA recognizes there are problems in the contract because of the issue of one town versus the other. There is an issue with the 95% vs. the obligation, it has never been resolved, and I think in the MS 27 it says a line for the high school. S. Miller there is a line for the high school and maybe it should be tested. M. DeCoff asked where is the contract that the SAU signed or is it just the JMA. L. Carr stated it is the JMA that the voters approved in both towns. M. DeCoff through indefinitely. L. Carr No You can change petition or have a warrant article I think it's 2/3 that you can change parts of the contract. M. DeCoff it has to be 2/3 of both towns. S. Miller the Whole idea of having a joint budget committee is having another pair of eyes. Without another set of eyes, one school board making unilateral decisions. It may be OK now because we are happy with the representation of both boards, but one day may be very upset about what they do and what happens is, they do it then you go to court. L. Carr throw in the mix, whether you should use the percentages on capital improvements as well. You could have the board say Capital Improvements is going to be 51% or is it 50/50. S. Miller we don't want that tested, You want that 50/50 because at the end of 20 years if one town decides, if Alton has first choice and Alton

decides they want to take over the high school. Alton can take over the high school and pay fair value to Barnstead and Barnstead has no say on whether or not they accept it. They have to accept it from a third party member. L. Carr the first year this thing started for the budget there were items they didn't put in for the school and we had to make up the diff on the capital improvements, at that time there was a big discussion on whether it was going to be 50/50 or the breakup, went to court, first time it was a hearing they pulled it out and made it 50/50. That is another issue. S. Miller that's good because if we want to buy them out we've never paid over we always paid 50/50 it would be equal for any capital improvements so that it would always be fair value for that third party. L. Carr it's leaving it up to the board whether it is going to be 50/50 or the split and that was the issue then. It did go to court on the JMA and they said the budget committee is only and advisory.

S. Miller what do we want to do. M. DeCoff I say get the number and then we can decide to reduce the line. Meeting scheduled after our public input. S. Miller As chairman of the Budget Committee at the high school I will contact Barnstead to see what their thoughts are unless both towns are serious on doing this. That's another issue on whether we want to take unilateral action. End up taking money out of our Central School as a matter of spite for instance we don't want to hurt the Central School. L. Carr stated unless the legal opinion has changed last I heard they felt it was an obligation to fund the whole thing. S. Miller stated the Budget Committee has access to an attorney for a legal opinion as well. If the Budget Committee would like to see a legal opinion. L. Carr I don't think J. Sessler going to advise you on that because I don't think he is qualified on that. S. Miller how about if I go down to the LGC and sit down with an attorney with an LGC sometimes they are willing to provide a legal opinion.

M. DeCoff Motion that S. Miller go sit with an attorney at the LGC

V. MacDonald seconds

All in Favor

Next meeting school board on January 10th.

8. Motion to by V. MacDonald to adjourn

L. Tilly Seconds

All in Favor

7:30 pm

Approved March 12, 2012

Respectfully Submitted

