

Town of Alton
Budget Committee Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
January 6, 2015
Minutes
Approved January 13, 2015

I. Call to Order 6:30pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Andy McLeod, Chairman
Roger Nelson, Vice Chairman
John Markland, Member
Terence O'Rourke, Member
Lou Lacourse, Selectmen's Representative
Steve Miller, School Board Representative

Ruth Messier, Member, Excused Absence

Other Attendees:

E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

IV. Approval of Agenda

R. Nelson motioned to approve the Agenda as presented and was seconded by L. Lacourse with all in favor.

V. Public Hearing Opened

VI. New Business

A. Town Department Public Hearing

R. Bailey provided an overview on the following handouts that were provided to the Committee:

- Revised Estimated Revenues Report for FY 2015, MS4.
- Budget of the Town/City of Alton for 2015, MS7
- Draft of Proposed 2015 Warrant Articles
- Default Budget for the Town of Alton for 2015
- The Town of Alton Version 1, No Collective Bargaining Cost Items
- Proposed Road Reconstruction Bond

The default town budget as prepared by the Board of Selectmen is \$6,699,486.

S. Miller asked if another vote would be taken on the Town Warrant articles after public input. It was agreed that a vote will be taken on any warrant articles where there is discussion.

B.&C. Warrant Articles and Road Reconstruction Bond Issue

A. McLeod read the list of the Warrant Articles pertaining to the Budget Committee into the record. Articles 1 through 10 pertain to the Planning Department.

There was a discussion on the Road Reconstruction Bond.

S. Miller requested to make a motion to bring up the proposed Road Reconstruction Bond for reconsideration. This will be discussed upon completion of the Public Hearing.

Alton resident Raymond Howard spoke on the \$750,000.00 Road Reconstruction.

Alton resident Barbara Howard spoke against the need for new sidewalks at Alton Bay and about various other programs that are supported by the Town. She also spoke about the Highway department being called to do work at the Cemetery and for the Water Department. Ms. Howard would like to know the balances for Articles 24, 25, and 26. R. Bailey will provide Ms. Howard with information on those articles. Ms. Howard also believes The Genesis fund should be covered by the Affordable Care Act.

Raymond Howard provided some additional comments regarding the road reconstruction.

Alton resident Mark Fuller spoke out against the Bond Issue for the Road Reconstruction and believes it should all be combined into one article. Mr. Fuller believes the sidewalk articles should also be combined into one warrant article. R. Bailey provided an explanation for the breakdown.

S. Miller motioned to close the public hearing and was seconded by L. Lacourse and passed with all in favor.

Public Hearing Closed.

S. Miller motioned to increase the operating budget for the Highway Department line an additional \$500,000.00 with the intention of adding \$500,000.00 per year so the town does not go into debt and does not incur interest expense and is able to manage the growth in the 4 year time period that is requested by the Administration and Selectmen. He would like to eliminate the Warrant Article or zero out the warrant article for the proposed Reconstruction Bond and add \$500,000.00 to the Highway Line and therefore to the entire budget.

The motion was not seconded.

There was continued discussion.

J. Markland noted that he believes he voted against the Road Reconstruction Bond during the meeting of December 16, 2014 and would like it on record that he is against the warrant article. The tape will be reviewed to confirm the vote.

S. Miller motioned to revote the Road Reconstruction Bond and was seconded by R. Nelson.

Budget Committee votes 3-3 with LL, AM and TO voting against.

Motion failed.

Discussion

E. Bailey informed the Committee that the Christian Conference Center may start bringing their waste to the Transfer Station.

VII. Old Business

A. Approval of meeting minutes

L. Lacourse motioned to accept the minutes of December 16, 2014 with the exception of Page 5 regarding the vote on the Road Reconstruction Bond until the confirmation of the vote can be confirmed and was seconded by R. Nelson. The Budget Committee votes 4-0-2 with JM and SM abstaining.

B. Review of Expenditures

The review of the year-end expenditure and revenue reports will be held until the reports are completed and received.

VIII. Other Business

The next meeting will be held on January 8, 2015 at 6:30pm with the location to be determined.

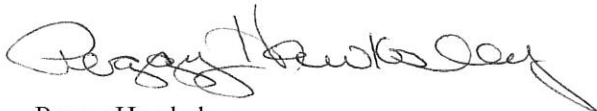
A. McLeod motioned to hold the meeting of January 8, 2015 at the Library or the Gilman Museum, and was seconded by L. Lacourse and passed with all in favor.

R. Nelson motioned to adjourn and was seconded by T. O'Rourke and passed with all in favor.

IX. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Peggy Hawksley
Budget Committee Secretary

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