

Town of Alton
Budget Committee Meeting
January 10, 2012
Approved March 12, 2012

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

M. DeCoff, Chair

S. Miller, Vice Chair

B. Howard, Member

L. Carr, Selectmen's Rep

L. Goosens, School Board Rep

L. Tilley, Member (6:15 pm)

V. MacDonald, Member

Other Attendees:

P. Hawksley, Secretary

General Public

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Agenda

M. DeCoff noted there are items in the warrant articles that have not been looked at yet and the teachers contract. M. DeCoff asked if the warrant articles had changed. L. Goosens stated there were two deleted.

S. Miller has questions about school board attendance

L. Carr has information on town warrant articles

Motion by L. Carr to approve as amended

B. Howard Seconds

All in Favor

5. Public Hearing

School Budget and Warrants

M. DeCoff read revenue into the record.

Estimated 2012 – 2013 revenue for unreserved funds is 599,968.

School Building Aid estimated at 432,055

Catastrophic Aid estimated at 30,000

Sub total on state sources 462,055

Federal Sources:

Federal Grants 100,000.00

Medicaid is 50,000.00

Child Nutrition is 87,541.00

Total 237,541.00

Local Sources:

Earnings on investment is 2,000

Food Service 156,842

Total on Local Sources is 158,842

Total Non tax revenue is 1,458,406.00

S. Miller has a question on school building aid 432,000, how do we get school building aid? I thought it was cut off. K. Oblenes stated that it would be the final year for Prospect Mountain High School. S. Miller asked 100,000 on federal grants do we have 100,000 in matching federal grants? K. Oblenes responded we have to. We have to have 100,000 in our revenue and 100,000 in our operating budget. S. Miller asked do we expect 100,000.00 in federal grants? K. Oblenes stated yes. S. Miller questioned how much do we expect total? K. Oblenes can't provide but can provide which grants, Title 1, IDEA Pre-School Grant, Title 2A; there is talk of Title 2A disappearing. S. Miller asked is all of these in excess of 100,000.00? K. Oblenes stated yes they are.

L. Carr would like to comment on the Building Aid I think that is confusing where you have a building project proposal wouldn't it be better to have a slash (/) JMA to clarify that? K. Oblenes stated if you would like a notation on the bottom to say that is part of the Prospect Mountain High School debt schedule. L. Carr stated I think what everybody thought was that we don't have any so why is it there. K. Oblenes stated will add notation for Prospect Mountain final year as well.

School Budget

M. DeCoff stated we will review by account and ask for any public input

K. Oblenes brought it to the boards attention that there is another aspect of health and dental that I have the cost savings on that the Budget Committee has not voted on and so that is something that will have to be voted on tonight as well.

M. DeCoff asked if you want to look at that first in the 1100 account?

K. Oblenes combined amount to decrease for health and dental is 29,114.00 from bottom line 1100

1100 Account

Only line for salary reduced 2400.00 for Saturday detention.

FICA adjustments reduce and NH Retirement 394.80

No public input

1140 Account

Health and Dental reduced 399.00

Reduced salary of technology assistant 8,882.00

Reduced all of the new computers.

FICA and NH Retirement

No Public Input

Discussion on how to proceed in presenting information to public and on reduction of Health and Dental

S. Miller asked were you directed by the School Board to give the public a bottom line on the School board recommendation? K. Oblenes what I did was I followed what I thought was the best procedure the last known public meeting votes. So those were the last. The meeting the decision the vote was taken for what were the bottom line numbers for the School Board. I have not included the health or dental decreases and neither have I put in a number for Prospect

Mountain because neither this Budget Committee or the School Board have officially voted on Prospect Mountain.

M. DeCoff stated so it is 3,179,876.00 with health and dental taken out.

S. Miller do you think the Budget Committee will be able to vote because we have all the numbers today. K. Oblenes stated that depends on the Budget Committee. S. Miller responded we can vote, but will we have all the elements of each line in order to vote today. K. Oblenes stated I don't know if that is a question for me. I'm here to do all the calculations I need to based on your decisions based on what's in what's out.

M. DeCoff we have everything we need. S. Miller asked do you have the retirement numbers? K. Oblenes stated she provided the numbers two weeks ago.

M. DeCoff so for the 1100 account we need to take out another 183.60 and 211.20. It is 3,179,481.20. K. Oblenes concurs.

L. Carr stated he believes the handout to the public should have the correct number on it. How is the public going to give us the information if they don't have the number in front of them? S. Miller concurs with L. Carr. At the very least the school board proposed number should have been finalized and handed in at this time so we don't have to add and subtract and hope it is right and look back and find out we are off by 20 cents or something like that. K. Holt stated the Boards number at this point; the Budget Committee has not taken action on some of these other items on a vote so Kathy was unable to do anything. If it is not voted Kathy is not going to put it in because she is making a supposition on what the Budget Committee wants. That is not an appropriate thing for our office to do, to make a supposition as to what this body wants. You didn't take action on this budget on some areas so Kathy cannot make those calculations.

L. Carr stated when we were going over the salaries you said we have to adjust the FICA and Retirement and you people said you would do that. K. Holt stated and she did that, but you have not voted on it.

S. Miller stated we said for instance vote on this number with the accompanying reductions in all benefits. That was essentially what we said. L. Carr agreed.

KH the budget committee has not voted on the budget in order for us to then say this is the final number for tonight's meeting.

L. Carr if it was said...K. Holt stated I'm not trying to stonewall you. It is a very difficult thing.

S. Miller we will hope these numbers are right after we make all these deductions and if we vote on the wrong number what happens then. If we are off by 10.00, 100.00 or 1,000.00 because two people added wrong.

K. Oblenes stated Steve I feel your frustration because I feel it as well. I have felt it and I have been very anxious about this evening. Last year when we went through the budget process even during the public hearing I think that you and I went during a break after all the votes were made to deduct certain amounts out of certain functions. You and I separately made those deductions and came together and found we had the same number. S. Miller stated we came into the hearing it was all done. K. Oblenes state no we did it during the hearing. S. Miller stated we did it at the SAU Office. K. Oblenes stated some prior votes. We wanted to make sure we were on the same page with what had been voted. There were final votes on the night of the public hearing. K. Holt stated and you had an opportunity after the public hearing to make your final votes and I remember that you very clearly stated every vote we are taking is a pre-vote. Kathy has been struggling, they haven't voted, they haven't voted we are not sure of their final votes and I said and you can't do anything until it is a final vote.

M. DeCoff asked when did you find out about the health insurance being able to be reduced?

K. Oblenes responded December 1 and we had already had the bulk of our meetings. The last meeting we had had to do with the warrant articles.

B. Howard stated not having any representation to bring the message to us to vote and to work in a more collaborative effort. That doesn't help anybody does it?

M. DeCoff stated continue the way we were going

S. Miller stated we don't have any choice

1100 account 3,179,481.20

1140 Account - Technology

Reduced 399.00 for health and dental

246,323.00

Reduction of Technology Assistant and we left the servers

FICA and retirement 1,461.09

Final figure - 244,861.91

No public input heard

1200 Special Ed

Reduced 12,404.00 for health and dental

No salary reduction

Total 1,650,098.00

No public input heard

1205 – Special Ed Extended Year

No changes

No public input heard

1280 –

Reduced 1,994.00 – Health and Dental

Total 191,447.00

No public input heard

1410 – Co-Curricular

No Changes, no reductions

No public input heard

1420 – Student Athletics

No changes, no reductions

No public input heard

1430 - Summer School

Reduced salary line 300.00

Reduced FICA and Retirement 56.85

Total 16,412.15

No public input heard

2120 - Guidance

Reduced Health and Dental 2,905.00

Total 215,112.83

No public input heard

2130 - Health Services

Reduced 434.00 Health and Dental
Reduced 66.94 for FICA
Total 89,932.06
Budget Committee reduced the substitute line
No public input heard

S. Miller asked do you always round the way you should or is it just round up or down? K. Oblenes stated I'm looking at the public hand out which is rounded. S. Miller asked when you publish it are you going to round up or round down? K. Oblenes it depends on what document goes out to the public. If it is software driven it is going to have the cents in it. It won't be rounded.

2150 - Speech Services
No changes
No public input heard

2210 - Improvement of Instruction
Budget Committee added 4,000 for Para-professional
Total 72,826.00
No public input heard

2220 - Library and Media
Budget Committee voted for bottom line budget to last year's
Reduced 556.00 for Health and Dental
Total 120,403.00
No public input heard

2310 - School Board
Reduced legal line
Total 53,010.00
No public input heard

2320 - SAU expenses
Reduced 1,252.00 for Health and Dental
Budget Committee Reduced 2500.00 out of advertisement, 1000.00 out of Tuition and Conferences
Total 231,194.00
No public input heard

2410 - Principals Office
Reduced 2,580 for Health and Dental
Budget Committee reduced secretary overtime
Reduce 82.25 for FICA and Retirement
Total 351,750.75
No public input heard

2510 - Business Services
Reduced 1,123 for Health and Dental
Total 116,762.00
No public input heard

2600 -
Reduced 4,420 for Health and Dental
Reduced 3,330.41 for FICA and Retirement
Total 799,236.59
Budget Committee reduced ½ custodian 13,177.00
NH retirement reduced was 2,338.00
Repairs and heating reduced 20,000.00
Repairs for truck reduced 2,000.00
Fuel reduced 162500 to 146,250.00
Furniture new reduced to 0
Equipment replacement reduced 3,812.00
Total 799,236.99
No public input heard

2700 - Transportation
Basic - 364,601.05
Special Ed - 171,280
Athletics - 13,760.50
Field Trips - 11,500
Account Total 8,138,268.70
No public input heard

V. MacDonald asked K. Oblenes where you round all of these do you round it up? K. Oblenes typically we always round them up. .50 and above we round up. Lower than .50 we round down.

Member of the public would like an explanation

M. DeCoff stated Budget Committee made reductions and needed to have reductions in FICA and Health Insurance. That is why we are correcting it now.

Member of public asked if it couldn't have been corrected before the meeting?

S. Miller they had the numbers they said on 12/1 and since then we have had 3 meetings and we still hadn't gotten the numbers. We can't do anything until we know what the FICA numbers and benefits are. M. DeCoff stated this is my fault with the FICA; I received them last week from Kathy.

K Holt the issue is what gets voted is what gets changed. The Budget Committee has not finalized the budget, they have been very busy with the warrant articles and it just never came to a vote and Kathy cannot bring forward to a public hearing a number that is not voted. Not so say the Budget Committee can't vote again or that the public can't listen to what is going on here to make sure you have every opportunity to listen to the numbers of what is going on. To bring forth a number that has not been voted by this Budget Committee would be a supposition on our Business Administrator making an assumption on some changes in a public changes that have not been voted.

M. DeCoff only temporarily voted on numbers and these are the numbers that need to be approved at the end of this meeting.

S. Miller it was not a case of being busy it was a case of not having all of the last numbers. K. Oblenes stated I had the numbers. The next meeting was warrant articles. Please I don't want to be the one reflected that I didn't have numbers. V. MacDonald and S. Miller stated there was nobody to blame. That is part of doing business with the budgets.

K. Holt it is important for the public to know this is your opportunity to give input as to whether you agree with what the Budget Committee is doing, what the board has done What is going on with the dollar amounts here.

V. MacDonald stated done the same thing with the town. It always seems to work out this way.

Comment made by public that was unheard by recorder.

S. Miller stated for the record this is the first time we saw the insurance numbers.

Recap of lines

1100 Account 3,179,481.20
1140 Account 244,861.91
1200 Account 1,650,098.00
1205 Account 37,805.00
1280 Account 191,447.00
1410 Account 42,427.00
1420 Account 52,214.00
1430 Account 16,412.15
2120 Account 215,112.83
Health 89,932.06
Speech 110,743.00
2210 Account 72,826.00
2220 Account 120,403
School Board 53,010.00
SAU 231,194.00
Principals Office 351,750.75
Business Services 116,762.00
Building Maintenance 799,236.99
Basic Transportation 364,601.00
Special Ed Transportation 171,280.00
Athletics Transportation 13,761.00
Field Trips 11,500.00
Sub Total 8,136,858.60

2320 Prospect Mountain

M. DeCoff to L. Goosens is this what the School Board recommended or is this what the Alton and Barnstead JMA reduced that by? M. DeCoff I show 3,330,674.00 is that the Alton Share?

M. DeCoff so there is no number from the budget committee?

K. Oblenes I have an E-Mail from Chuck Stewart at Prospect Mountain High School that stated PMHS at its meeting of 12/20/11 voted for a bottom line budget of 6,899,751.00 Alton at 52.7% is 3,636,169.00.

M. DeCoff to L. Goosens did you take the JMA budget committee's recommendation to reduce the budget or did you not take any of their recommendations.

L. Goosens replied some not all of them.

S. Miller asked which ones. S. Miller there were approximately 22 in JMA recommendations. L. Goosens stated there were some of the similar ones we did.

S. Miller stated the JMA recommended 127,416.00 in reductions how much did the school board recommend, if any? L. Goosens does not know the number off the top of her head.

S. Miller there are other members of the school board here do you want to ask them. L. Goosens stated she doesn't think any of them would know the number off the top of their head.

M. DeCoff the number you gave me was 6,899,751.00 and between the two, JMA and Alton, the budget committee recommended a bottom line budget of 6,842,991.00

V. MacDonald stated we can't vote on this anyway. We can't vote on an E-Mail

M. DeCoff we haven't voted on what we were going to give to the High School yet. We can recommend not to fund that line, to default. That line we can vote to recommend to vote to only fund so much. The Joint Committees had 6,842,991.00. L. Carr asked what the percentage was. M. DeCoff stated Alton is 52.7%. 52.7% of 6,842,991.00 equals 3,606,256.00

K. Oblenes asked does the Joint Budget Committee have the same exact powers as Alton Budget Committee. M. DeCoff and S. Miller stated no we are just advisory.

But we can recommend the line be funded or not funded. K. Oblenes however, when you make that recommendation here.... K. Holt stated it will come out of the Alton School budget. Anything that is cut out of Prospect Mountain budget comes out of the Alton Central School students. We have to fully fund what the Prospect Mountain School approves. We have to gross appropriate. V. MacDonald the only way to get the School Board to look at the JMA Budget Committee is to cut that line. School Board needs to take a hard look at it because they are a little hoopy on their spending. S. Miller I chaired the JMA budget committee and we spent 5 days and significant amount of hours, going over the budget on a line-by-line basis. Both Barnstead and Alton agreed to reduce the JMA budget originally by 150,616.00 and after the public hearing we put back some dollars and reduced it by 127,416.00. The simple question is this that was our duty, which is specified in the JMA agreement. We also have a duty to come back to the Alton Budget Committee and tell the budget committee these are the cuts or the additions that were recommended by the JMA. The Alton Budget Committee votes to recommend or not recommend that number or 52% we have to pay or some alternative number. If we cannot come back and recommend an alternative number, will somebody tell me why we showed up at all? K. Holt stated that is part of the JMA. S. Miller asked why did we have the meetings if we cannot come here and recommend to the Budget Committee the reductions on a line by line basis and defend it of course then have the Alton Budget Committee vote to either go along with the 127,000.00 or our percentage of the 127,000.00 reductions or not. K. Holt I understand that. That happens in a different venue. That money comes directly out of the students of Alton Central School.

S. Miller stated also as well as Barnstead if they vote the same way. That is the way it was designed.

M. DeCoff asked L. Carr what number he came up with, with the 52.7%. L. Carr responded 3,606,256.00. Alton's share of PMHS.

L. Carr stated that is 29,912.00 less than the JMA board's E-Mail.

S. Miller suggests he will list out the individual reductions that were recommended by the joint budget committee and hypothetically if 100% are agreed upon the 52.7% of 127,416.00 would be the recommended deductions form the school board budget that would be the recommended budget by the Budget Committee.

MD stated I don't think we need to go line by line. This is what 3 people from the Budget Committee recommended. I'm sure the rest of the Budget Committee would go along with it. So that is the number we will end up using 3,606,256.00. S. Miller commented in order for there to be accurate input they really have to know more than the gross number. M. DeCoff stated we already had public input on the high school budget. K. Holt stated this is just a line in the Alton

School budget. M. DeCoff stated the amount the budget committee is recommending is 3,606,256.00 in that line. We can take public input on that line.

M. DeCoff asked if there was any public input.

Principal Leggett stated it is really tough when we have a public hearing and we have these Prospect Mountain reductions. I feel that our school and district did a really good job of presenting a budget. We are coming in far below what we requested last year and we are being really conscientious and being really transparent about presenting exactly what we need. It is tough for Principal Leggett in a situation like this when the other reductions are made to know that even though we came in with a greatly reduced budget that these cuts, because of PMHS, are going to come directly from Alton Central Students. V. MacDonald stated that is when you should go to the board and ask them why is it coming out of your budget when they are not doing their job. B. Howard stated in fact aren't there current board members who are part of the JMA. V. MacDonald stated this school board we have a problem. They like to take every penny they can get their hands on. Principal Leggett stated she doesn't agree. V. MacDonald stated he did. It wasn't a big cut. It wasn't devastating. They made relatively small cuts. I think the school board could have listened to it instead of putting it aside and saying no we really want to do our pet projects. S. Miller stated is it really fair for the JMA not to have a second pair of eyes looking at them? If we take a stance, we are not in the business of punishing Alton Central School. That means they can come up with any budget they want, the Prospect Mountain School Board and because there are no set of eyes for a second opinion that is what automatically goes into the Alton Central School Budget and it has to be passed. We didn't create the rules all we are doing is going by the rules. B. Howard stated I also find it really interesting with the millions of dollars in these budgets it always falls on the shoulders of the children we never say it will affect administration, transportation it is always the children. Principal Leggett stated that is because everything in place is for the children. B. Howard stated even retirement. V. MacDonald stated no that is where you get the most reaction out of the people when you say it's coming out of the children.

Public Input

Kristin Heikel

I have 3 very young children and I did not go to PM deliberative session I don't have high school children. I had heard through the grapevine that there were drastic cuts. I did not get the opportunity to go up there myself because my interest is here. My small children and the elementary school. I know there are parents here who are interested in their small children and elementary school. You have lots and lots of meetings. My hats off to you that you go to all of these, but many of us focus on where are kids are and where we are now. I think we would like to know. I heard that all server maintenance has been wiped clean from the high school, so I would like to know if that was in fact true. So could you please go line by line and let us know what you are doing because I care about my kids and I want money for my children at the Central School and I don't want it to go to the high school. That is my bottom line. Where the money is going.

B. Howard stated 6.8 million dollar budget at the high school and we effectively cut 127,000.00 we tried to cut 150 and you think 127,000,00 from a 6.8 million dollar budget is a drastic cut? I have a problem with that definition.

L. Tilley do we have access to what the school board agreed to on the cuts. It looks like about 50% of the recommendations were taken and the other 50% were not. It would be really good to know which 50% were not.

S. Miller will go over the cuts at the high school level.

General Education acct

- General Education account reduced dues and fees 270.00. We did that across the board that were not directly geared towards the students but for professional development of the teacher or professionals that effectively increased their resume. Anything that was for the benefit of just the professional. Very specific.
- Cut 1,365.00 for a tuba
- Reduced computers 27,300, reason is there was a 4-year replacement plan and it was decided based on the state of technology 5 year replacement plan made a lot of sense in this environment.
- Servers and wireless was reduced 7,356. One of the board members is the main supervisor for servers in Concord in the State of NH. That was his job. He went through a long explanation what it means to keep a server, maintain it and what the age limit is for a server.
- 1,000 reduced for maintenance for phones and bells because the school is getting older
- 2% raise increase for Spec Ed was reduced. It was the feeling across the board in terms of raises
- 2120 Fees and Dues reduced 1,070.00
- Improvement of Instruction reduced 2,250.00. Eliminating 1 motivational speaker
- Library and media were reduced 9,835, breakdown was 7,115 new projectors, 220 for dues and fees and 2500 books
- Distance learning reduction of 6,000 for Mandarin Chinese
- Increase of Vice Presidents salary of 5500 was reduced because that was to be used as a recruiting tool not for somebody who was actually there.
- Dues and fees were again reduced 1795
- Food reduced 2000 out of the Principals budget, not for the kids
- Building and Maintenance reduced 13,000. School maintenance of baseball fields
- 15,000 was reduced for electric
- 1185 repair and maintenance
- Athletic Transportation reduced 1300 to make it level funded

Total 127,416.00

L. Goosens stated well I know where 13,000 of the 29 is. They put the 13 back in for the baseball fields.

K. Agrigopolous stated the board unanimously approved to eliminate several items that the budget and the joint budget committee recommended. Those items included

A Euphonium (tuba)

General Education 5,426 for servers and 11,200 for computers

2,250 Improvement of Instruction

1795 Spec Ed

6,000 Distance Learning

27,315 in Superintendent's Account

13,000 Field Maintenance

1,185 Repairs and Maintenance Account
1300 transportation for Athletics Account

Alton's portion of those reductions that were accepted was actually more than what was recommended by JMA Finance Committee. Board cut more than JMA recommended by about 20,000. That is an estimate

Alton's portion a 29,000 increase from the previous year.

Bottom line of 2 budgets from what was adopted by the JMA board and previous year's budget is 29,913.00

To cut that difference from the Alton Central budget because the numbers were not adopted by the JMA school board after consideration would be a punitive action in my opinion. Would basically like holding a gun to the head of Alton Central. PM is a school in need of improvement and District in need of improvement. There are a lot of things the board did consider and accepted with no problem. There are some things like having a ball game on our own field really needs to be taken care of and something that needs to be maintained. I don't believe 29,000 increase from one year to the next is an inconsiderate increase.

V. MacDonald asked how have they been irrigated? K. Agrigopolous they have been irrigated; there are some issues with how the soil layers were put down. Loring may be able to speak with this further. This is not something that is covered under insurance after construction. Bottom line there needs to be some maintenance done and changes to the top level of them. This is something the Business Administrator from Prospect can address. This is something the JMA budget committee should have gone over and addressed.

L. Carr addressed on one of the handouts the information on Prospect Mountain the adopted budget for 2011-2012 is 3,365,664. This year our portion, if we go along with the joint board, is 3,606,256. That is 240,592.00 divide by 3365 that is a 7.15% increase. I think Mrs. Heikel is correct. Take out number and take number from last year's actual and we are decreasing the elementary school by 1%. 86,498. by 822356. The elementary school is being cut by 1%. The high school is going up 7.15%.

B. Howard stated that is something the Budget Committee cannot fix. It is a procedure that is in place. K. Agrigopolous stated it is an increase in enrollment. L. Goosens stated the numbers are different at the High School. K. Agrigopolous noted we have an increase in enrollment we have a difference. In the past it has been 50/50 now it is 52% Alton, 48% Barnstead. Changes year-to-year based on enrollment. V. MacDonald stated 1% doesn't constitute a 7% rise. M. DeCoff stated last year we were 48. K. Oblenes stated this impacts us more. K. Agrigopolous stated because of the way it is split out by student enrollment. L. Carr stated all right what are the bottom line numbers them. What is the increase without the % what is the increase in bottom line of the 6,899,751? What was the number last year for the total? Cutting elementary school 1% and the high school is going up 7%. S. Miller how else can you stop the high school from over spending? There is no way to do it. Their line automatically goes into the budget unless there is a recommendation to change it.

M. Decoff asked Krista Agrigopolous if the number for the % for Alton is 3,635,756.00. K. Agrigopolous responded yes 29,913.00 is difference between our portion. You need to look at this by portion for each year. The previous year Barnstead saw a similar increase, it is based on enrollment. If we had 200 kids from each district it would be split 50/50. However, when you have more from one sending district than the other your numbers are going to change.

L. Tilly asked not counting the split just working off the base numbers what was last years? K. Oblenes and K. Agrigopolous stated they don't have the last year's total Prospect number.

M. DeCoff asked wasn't it 6,984,028.00?

K. Agrigopolous stated when we have a default budget only Alton Central School would be impacted by a default budget. Prospect gets exactly what they asked for. S. Miller stated how fair is that? K. Oblenes stated by contractual obligation that's been looked at. K. Agrigopolous your frustration has been felt more than once. There was actually a case law on this a while back. Something that Pat Fuller was involved in.

M. DeCoff stated PMHS budget went up 4,000.00. S. Miller since Alton School Board members are part of the PMHS board, shouldn't the Alton School Board and the Barnstead School board understand that if the budget is too high and cuts to be made you people are on the same board, the cuts are going to come out of the elementary school and the middle school and it is never going to come out of the high school. Why haven't you since 2004-2005 put a stop to it? L. Goosens stated if it only went up 4,000 what we are paying is difference in the enrollment. We have no control over that. Alton does get hit because of that. We have more kids at the high school so we have to pay for more services. S. Miller stated as a school board member and you understand the demographics are changing because you know who is graduating from Alton. L. Goosens stated increasing budget by 4,000 at the high school prices go up. 4,000 is not much. V. MacDonald stated when everybody is struggling you would think the school board would try to cut it instead of putting irrigation in around these fields. S. Miller commented now not the time to do the baseball fields and a tuba. L. Goosens stated we played 2 games on the home field.

B. Howard remarked 191 away games and we could emphatically not cut 1 game.

M. DeCoff the original high school budget what they proposed was 7,012,000.00 and it got reduced to 6,899,751.00.

Public Input

Rebecca McKellar

I have 2 students at Alton Central School, one in kindergarten and one in second grade. I wanted to point out that cutting administration and professional development in a school district does affect the children. Your affecting the quality of the people we can retain in the school and that is affecting the education of our children. Don't pretend it doesn't because it does, people will leave if we are not a competitive school district.

Secondly if you want to change the way the budget is overseen, way things are run, we have two different unions, etcetera, etcetera, this is not the time to do it when you are going to affect the kids of the Alton Central School. There are better times to do it, not when you are going for a vote. Thirdly there is a certain bottom line that you have to maintain in order to have the beautiful high school that we do. There's a certain amount of money that goes into it. Things need to be maintained. To maintain the field right now is going to cost X amount of dollars. To do an overhaul because we didn't do the irrigation properly is going to cost a whole lot more in 3-5 years than it would right now to fix the problem. You have to be pro-active on these things or it is going to cost a whole lot more down the road.

Steve Renner

I am a parent of Alton Central School I have two successful children in the program. First of all it was very interesting to watch everybody up here with calculators for a very long time, but I'm pretty sure my second grade with paper and pencil could add it up quicker and accurately.

B. Howard stated you should have brought them along.

M. Renner responded and continued if it wasn't past their bedtime I would have. In terms of the comments made not affecting children, as I sit here and I have been to one other BC meeting, I could also go line by line and tell you how each line of this budget would affect my children. Out of the 21 different categories listed here I would say routinely my kids use 17 of them. I would be happy to go line by line and explain that, but there are already rumblings about how long this meeting is taking and how far along we are. Just to re-iterate what the last person said these do affect the kids. Administration does affect the kids. My daughter loved having lunch with Mrs. Leggett this year. Gracious enough to take part of her day and to spend with each of the kids of the second grade is fantastic and does loads for their enthusiasm and their desire to come to school everyday. Just as an example the administrative costs that we pay that have an effect on the kids.

Lastly wasn't aware to the extent to the situation of the Prospect fields, however, to go beyond that and speak as a community member I participate in the Alton Youth League as a coach, I participate in the Alton softball program and since the school has been available Alton Youth League and Alton Adult Softball Program have been denied every year use of the facility because of the supposed problems with the field. So it is not just a few high school baseball games that affected by the quality of the field. There are those of us who would like to use the facility on a regular basis or other kids outside the school program and as adults and we are not able to. If we can make progress to addressing these kinds of issues it will help our community and help the students and bring people to Alton if we can provide them with opportunities to give us some competitive edge or balance the playing field a little bit.

V. MacDonald commented I go over and watch home games on those fields. I think it is a matter of arguing with the school board to let the league use them.

M. DeCoff asked what would Alton's portion for the high school be? What would the number be at the 52.7% out of the 6,899,751.00 K. Oblenes responded it would be 3,636,169.00?

L. Carr asked am I correct that it would be .36% of the operating budget of 8136858?

S. Miller stated 3/10 of 1 pct of the Alton Central School budget

L. Carr unless we can get the second grader up here to do the math. That is what I have.

L. Carr asked if this passes and it passes in Barnstead, the cuts, the JMA board can rethink their budget can't they? After the budget passed and Barnstead says they cut the same amount as Alton does, then the joint board can go back and refigure their budget.

S. Miller stated 2 years ago there was a petition article to give the JMA budget committee equal authority as the budget committee of each individual town. The people turned it down because they don't want the oversight.

L. Carr stated if that did that if you re-do your budget and the JMA it won't affect the elementary. If you look at these numbers for the budget of 2010-2011 3356 the actual was 3309234. Over 30,000 more in savings. There is room there in past history.

L. Goosens part of that to we always have the professional development line. That's what we were trying to build up with warrant article to have over on the side because if you have to contractually budget for it you could contractually budget it for it every year. That is why we wanted it and just replenish that. S. Miller asked were you going to buy a new telephone system with the surplus? L. Goosens replied it is not surplus it is E-Rate.

Capital Reserve Federal Projects 100,000

Food Service 245,383.00

Capital projects left at 1.00

Next meeting will vote on what we are going to decide for a bottom line.

Warrant Articles

S. Miller asked if any of the articles had changed

L. Goosens stated yes

Article 2

To determine the fixed salaries of the school board and the compensation of any other officer or agent of the district as follows: Moderator 200.00 per meeting, Clerk 200.00 per meeting, Treasurer 2,000.00, Chairman of the School Board 2100.00, School Board Members 2,000.00. Cost of these items are included in the Operating Budget.

M. DeCoff noted Budget Committee approved that. We did a temporary vote.

Article 3

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of 18,800,615.00 for renovations, reconstruction repairs and construction of addition of Alton Central School and for furnishing and equipping school. To authorize the issuance of not more than 18,042,000.00 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provision of the Municipal Finance Act RSA 33 and to authorize the School board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon further more to authorize the withdrawal of 19,832.20 from the Water Heater Capital Reserve Fund, 239,011.33 from the Fire Suppression Capital Reserve Fund, 25,741.22 from the Security Safety Expendable Trust Fund, 446.18 from the Electrical Services Upgrade Expendable Trust Fund 31,103.52 from the Bathroom Refurbishment Expendable Trust Fund, 1,839,23 from the Windows Expendable Trust Fund, 440,666.06 from the Buildings and Grounds Expendable Trust, with the balance 18,042,000.00 and no cents and further to raise and appropriate the additional sum of 410,956.67 for the first years interest payment on the bond.

M. Decoff noted there was no School board rep going over this warrant article when it was presented to the Budget Committee so it was preliminarily turned down.

V. MacDonald stated we haven't had a school board rep for a while.

S. Miller they didn't bother to show up to defend their article.

Public Input

S. Renner

I am also a member of Buildings and Grounds Committee, I was here for the meeting and I did offer public input. I am not an elected official. Mr. Parker was here as well. We are both members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. There were people here could have addressed some questions in an unofficial capacity. Since that time anything that has been in the local media there has been no reference to either Mr. Parker or I attending that meeting and being present for at least portions of it. To represent the work that we've done in addition to people from the SAU who could have addressed those issues.

To speak as a parent I feel that moving forward with this project is certainly valuable. I feel that there are a lot of reasons why it is a good time to move forward with the project. Yes it is a lot of money and just to note I do appreciate seeing this process and realizing how vigilant this committee is with how the taxpayer money is spent. I appreciate that as a taxpayer of Alton. However I am also concerned with making sound investments. I feel that this is a sound investment Not only because of having 2 children that will hopefully still be there when this facility is renovated but also for someone who plans to stay in Alton and who wants to see business attracted to Alton. I have lived here for 6 years and I have seen more business close on

Main Street than open. I feel that having a school facility that would be a plus be a positive for the community and draw additional population, draw businesses here. I am a private educator for a non-profit organization based in Rochester and I travel throughout northern New England doing programs in schools. In the past 18 months I have probably been to around 30 different schools. With a very small exception there isn't a building that I went into that says boy this facility is a lot nicer than where my kids go. That doesn't necessarily translate to better education, but the perception of comfort, feeling like it is a welcome place feeling that it is an adequately climate controlled place, that I can be up there in front of a group of kids presenting to 200 or 300 kids and not be sweating or freezing it is a big deal. When I hear when my kids come home it was really hot in there it was really cold in there. Why are you thinking about that when you should be thinking instead of what you should be thinking of when you go to school? I hope you will take into consideration, yes it is great for the kids but it is also going to be a great asset to the community when you are making your recommendation.

V. MacDonald stated to me 4 or 6 person larger enrollment than we had in 1988 I hope that this fails. Because I don't believe we need another brand new building down there for 18 million. I mean I think it is crazy to build another brand new school. M. DeCoff asked Virgil to let the public speak.

Mr. Renner continued to address that a majority of the project expenses are going to renovating an existing facility there will be 3 or 5 will be left unfinished out of this entire project. There will be 5 classrooms that will not be utilized at this time. When I think about how different education is now than when I was a kid the expenses and just the type of programs that are offered and the additional space that is required for those programs, it is very likely that even without an increase in student population those classrooms will be utilized within 5 years say. The other trend I find interesting Alton is one of the few Lakes Region communities that in the last 10 years, despite the economic downturn and despite the last couple of years where it may not have been the case, in the last 10 years there has been overall growth in Alton. It is an attractive place to live, it's a place people will return to or come here from outside regions. I have only been here 6 years I spent most of my life in Philadelphia, few years in Maine and a couple in California. I'm here to stay. I think that when people can afford to come back, afford to buy property, I look around where I live now and there are roughly 25-29 vacant subdivision lots that don't have houses on them yet. If those 29 houses get built how many kids is that and that is only a very small section of Alton. It could be done and right now we have an extra 5 classrooms to accommodate those kids.

Rebecca McKellar

From what I understand is when I was at the board meeting yesterday that 60-80% of this budget is for renovations that need to be done regardless. **I don't see putting in a little extra money to make sure we have room for a population growth that is mostly going to happen given our proximity to Concord and Manchester and we are on the lake.** I moved here 3 years ago because this is a desirable community to live in. I tell people how much I love Alton every time there is somebody looking to buy a house. This is a desirable community to live in. Fiddleheads that just moved here recognizes that Alton is a desirable community to live in. People are going to come as the economy improves. It is a no-brainer and we need to be pro-active and have a school ready to accommodate these children because I don't want to see my children in class sizes of 30 because we didn't approve this.

Andy McCloud

I also have children in the school and a spouse who works in the school. When I went to the School Board Committee meeting, what I see tonight is the budget Committee is upset with the lack of representation of the school board and therefore they preliminary voted against the article.

BH stated we couldn't vote. We didn't have answers to the questions.

Andy McCloud continued tonight when that was said you all sat back and as far as I can see there are 3 school board members here. Why did you not ask them to answer these questions?

Ask them the questions you are concerned about so we can get this process rolling.

They can give clear and concise answers and they can do it in a respectful manner

M. DeCoff we can ask why they weren't here when it was on the agenda.

A. McCloud continued we can run around in circles for years and get the same answer and I understand your frustration. We are all people and we are imperfect. I am imperfect. Lets get this thing rolling. Do you have questions for them or have you just decided flat out no you don't want to spend the 18 million.

K. Holt stated I would like to add something to the issue that deals with the cost. Kathy did some work on it. One of the things people are concerned about is what is the actual impact for them. What it translates to dollars per year in my tax bill. We are going to have a lot more information because people are concerned with each of the issues and we do have articles coming up and I do want to thank S. Renner and his Communication Committee and all of the people who have contributed in getting that information out. Estimated that 65% of the project will renovate what we need in this building. Not for growth but for improvement of the building, safer, healthier, the way it should be for, healthier for these kids. People also want to know what is it going to be like for them at the most expensive year.

Year one interest only.

Year two, FY 2014 this will be the most expensive. An increase in your taxes after we retire the Prospect Mountain bond, because you have been paying the bond, it was a 10 year bond, we are now going to be doing a 20 year bond. Because we are retiring the Prospect Mountain bond which this year was 68 cents and selling the other bond.

A. McCloud stated are these the questions that we have been waiting for. S. Miller this isn't the venue for it. The venue for it is in the meeting or the workshop that is after this, not at the public hearing. The Public Hearing is to state what we have determined so far and get public input. Then we have a discussion, there can be public input after that, and then we vote.

K. Holt stated I think the public wants this information. M. Decoff stated I have no problem with this presentation and asked if anyone else on the board had a problem. There was no response from other board members.

A. McCloud questioned now that there is school department representation is the Budget Committee going to work with the school board that stopped them from making the decision. M. DeCoff responded yes as long as we can get the answers.

Kristina Heigel

I teach 4 different health classes, in 4 different classrooms. I have to bump a teacher every time. I move from space to space to space. Not just for growth, not for new. Guidance also has to go into other people's classrooms and teach there. Please remember there are also people that work in the building currently that do the best that we can for the students and we go to them, but it would really be nice to have a spot where they can find us and we don't have to bump a regular classroom teacher from working in their room so that we can give the students the best service as possible. So it is not just growth when some of us are saying we need our own space. I wanted

you to understand that there are people that roam in the building. They carry books in carts and go from room to room to go to the students. V. MacDonald stated we have also taken classrooms and made them into offices. When the offices should be out in the modulars K. Heigel continued it would be nice, there are many teachers that roam. Just be clear it is not just for growth but also, for what is currently packed into that building there now. I have been there 15 years I have seen the growth. I've seen the changes. We are tight in there. In order to provide for the students we need space. To give them the best and I am all about providing the students with the very best services we can. We have some of the best teachers help them by giving them the space they need.

V. MacDonald stated in 88 we had the high school in there, now with just the elementary in there with 5 or 6 more students by your enrollments we are only growing 5 or 6 more students.

Principal. Leggett I thank everybody for the public input one of the crucial needs is getting rid of the modulars and getting the students inside the building where we know that they are safe and that they are in a healthy environment for learning. Part of the reason we did have even more modulars when the high school was there and we did remove some modulars when the high school left. V. MacDonald asked why wouldn't the school move the offices out to the modular and keep the students in the building?

Principal Leggett responded probably because the supervision is greater in the building we have 8 classrooms outside and 40 inside. V. MacDonald stated so the supervision is greater inside. Principal Leggett stated unfortunately, we try to get out there. The teachers are out there the students are not alone. Will it be safer for them to be in the building, absolutely. V. MacDonald stated so move the offices out of the building and stop taking up classrooms with offices. Principal Leggett stated then we are outside.

Robert Daniels

How much space are we taking up in the current buildings that are in there that we are trying to replace. K. Holt responded 8 classrooms. Most people in town would probably agree with me that the building should be replaced. 8 classrooms, how much sq ft is that? K. Holt stated probably 900 sq feet per modular. Mr. Daniels stated I understand that each building is about 1700 sq and there are 4 buildings. K. Oblenes stated each modular is separated into two classrooms. R. Daniels about 6800 sq feet with four buildings. If you go with that number and primarily do what you said take care of the temporary buildings and not have them there anymore which probably most people in town would think is a good idea, they probably would too. It would be 6800 sq if you double that space be about 14,000. Build a building according to Reed Data. They are a large construction company that puts out a lot of costs estimates. They built a building in Concord 112.00 per square foot, a concrete building. That would be about 1.64 million. I know you are going to be doing renovations as well but maybe some local contractors can fix windows, do some painting try to put some people in town to work as well. 1.6 million is a lot less than 18 million. That is an awful big number. That I think the town would probably have a problem with. Did you get any other estimates? K. Oblenes stated it is an estimate not a bid. It will go out to bid if it passes by the voters in March. R. Daniels continued go by the number of students that is 33,000 a student. L. Goosens where are you putting this 14,000 sq feet. R. Daniel said out the backside he doesn't know he is just trying to help. L. Goosens stated that is part of the issue. If you go into the building it is like a maze and that is what we are trying to get rid of. R. Daniels continued the population in Alton is about 5200 you are talking about quite a lot per person population wise. That is just what I wanted to add.

K. Holt spoke to Mr. Daniels and explained some of the ideas.

Linda Wilma

I am a parent of a child at Alton Central School; she started there in first grade and is now in 7th grade I can tell you that she would come home from school and let me know that she didn't want to use the restrooms in the building because of the condition they were in. I'm not just talking about the cleanliness of them it is just the actual condition of using the facilities. She is a 7th grader now and there is absolutely a gorgeous area that they can now go use those facilities within the building. But I think I would be remiss as a parent and a teacher and not try to advocate for all of the other little people in the building in that she was not alone in how she felt I'm also a teacher at the school and I can tell you that we moved here to Alton because we loved this community we wanted the community feel, we love the community and I was very fortunate when I got a job working for Alton School. I had the pleasure of working in one of the modulars. I worked in the school and then moved out to one of the modular It is not something that is difficult for the teachers to deal with because if you're a teacher and your passionate about what you do you will work anywhere I think it comes down to the children. I know there are some discrepancies about what we are here for. I am here for all of the students within the school. Regarding the budget and regarding the renovations, I can tell you that we need this renovation. As a taxpayer and as a mother I would ask you to please consider this for all of the students.

Alyssa McNeil

Mom of two children at Alton Central School I have a 9 year old in 3rd grade and a 6 yr old in 1st grade. They love the school. They don't care if the toilets don't flush every other day. They tell me about it. I'm not meaning to be funny, they think it is funny. I worry for their health. I also worry because I'm a teacher there. My first two years at Alton Central the first two years there I taught in a modular, the front one that everyone thinks is the office. There is a sign that says "To Office" and they think it is pointing to my room. I don't notice how hot it can be or how freezing it can be. I do feel bad when it gets to be over 100 degrees in June and when we get back to the school in the fall. When it rains they can't sit near the windows because the rain actual pours in. My first year we had a really wet year and it was raining so hard and the kids didn't even flinch. I asked what is happening, what is happening to the roof. They said it always floods. That was 3 years ago. The last part, my modular sits over the septic. A couple of days before school you can't even go in there because they pump it out. You smell it all year. I can deal with it and I feel very lucky to have a job there. Those kids have no choice. I'm just putting it out there. It is not about growth it is about health and about being safe. That is what I'm worried about.

K. Holt stated it is a dry well.

Rebecca McKellar

I just want to point out that the reason the offices might be not be out in the modular is, and I don't know this for sure there are standards of sq ft that need to be met per student according to state and federal law and there are a certain number of exits that need to be available in a room in order for students to be in it. That might be one of the many reasons that offices are in the main building and not in the modular. Also when I go into the school I'm nervous about the fact that the office administration cannot see who is entering and exiting the building. That is a real concern. Somebody coming in there with a gun is not going to go to the office and say hi I'm here give me my name tag. So that's not going happen and we can't pretend there aren't people out there and it couldn't happen to our kids. Also I've done out the math for what my increase would be, my house is estimated at a little less that 200,000 but I rounded it up. A 200,000 home

with increase 1.35% in the year 2014 that would be an extra 270.00 in takes and break down to 22.50 a month, I am more than willing to pay 22.50 a month so I know my kids are being properly supervised and I know they are in a comfortable environment. That's worth 23.00 a month to me

K. Oblenes I know from last night's public hearing that everyone is truly speaking from the pocket. I am a person of figures so I wanted to come up with tangible numbers.

Explanation and discussion of handout.

The most a taxpayer would see could be a 2.5% largest increase from the previous year, for the tax impact I created 10 different scenarios on Alton Homes. Went through the data base and took houses, including my own based on my tax rate and emulated how it is figured, the old value of the house was 146,600. Tax rate of today and adding .25 to the school rate. would add 36.65 for one year.

B. Howard asked a question regarding the hand out, it does not show the people how much the tax rate would be if the high school bond was done and we didn't start any new debt. Do these numbers reflect what we are already paying on the bond? You say seamless so we are paying .68 per 1000. Is that .68 filtered into this? K. Oblenes stated yes, one side is the simple tax impact of each warrant article, the other side shows how it filters through if something were to pass in March.

Continued discussion on hand out.

B. Howard asked question on the 18 million dollars. How much of the 18 million is appropriated for land purchase. K. Holt stated none. B. Howard asked and there is no current negotiations on purchasing land. K. Holt stated that is a non-issue.

Article 4

Should article 3 be adopted shall the Alton School District raise and appropriate the sum of 1,750,000.00 to add to geothermal heating and cooling of the Alton Central School. Including equipment, installation, professional services fees, site development fees and any other items incidental to and or necessary for said heating and cooling system. To authorize the issuance of no more 1750,000.00 in bonds and notes in accordance with the provision of the Municipal Finance Act and authorize the school board to issue and negotiate such bond or notes and determine the rate of interest thereon and further to raise and appropriate an additional sum of 39,861.11 for the first year's interest rate on the bond. This article is contingent upon the approval of Article 3.

The Budget committee did not approve this.

S. Miller asked Mr. Krause if he had the information he requested.

M. DeCoff asked if there was any public input

A spreadsheet was distributed to the board.

Mr. Krause stated it was requested that he run a spreadsheet of the potential payback for the expenditure of the geothermal heat. Unfortunately these huge amounts of numbers are the

paybacks. Mr. Miller asked me to give the best guess scenario because realize this is a crystal ball type prediction. I went and researched the price of heating oil from 2005 to 2011 That is published, the state has an average that they publish for the state of New Hampshire and it increased 62%. Which is 10% a year, I used 9% to be a little bit conservative and used 3% increase on electric rate. I have no basis for the 3% increase. I just figured you should have something in there to increase the electric rate.

S. Miller asked is this the best case, worst case or most probable scenario. Mr. Krause stated this is probable scenario. I didn't run a best case, I ran what I thought was an accurate representation. The ground source heat pump, which is really the effective of the geothermal system, is comprised of about 50% of in wells and the wells have no life to them. They are a closed loop system. They don't draw water off of them like some residential systems. So basically you look at the well portion of geothermal system as forever. There shouldn't be, say other than some natural disaster anything that would affect the well portion Then, the next portion of that is a certain proportion of duct work which I don't have broken out into pieces, then pumps and then some equipment. The ground source heat pumps right now are known to save over 64% over oil. I used 50% again to be conservative taken it out to the outlet limit. What you see on the figures is the present heating cost for a similar energy efficient oil heat school. Not your school now because I think you are spending more than that. In fairness for comparison we used 1/3 gallon per square foot. Probably headed to 1/2 gallon per square foot.

Discussed heating comparisons on spreadsheet.

Mr. Krause continued, I flat rated the cost of this of 127,000 over 20 years I am not an accountant, I did it so we had a number we could look at from a comparison standpoint. Net savings first year ends up being a negative number because it is 127,000 bond cost your only saving 68,000, but you can also see that in year 5 that becomes a positive number. Accumulative savings by year 15 it pays back the bond in its entirety. Whether or not you choose or the board chooses to pre-pay the bond is way beyond my expertise. What Mr. Miller was asking for was to get some type of concept of what this stuff could do to save you in the long run.

Continued discussion of spreadsheet.

Worse case scenario positive cash flow comes in at year 18 pays off at year 22. I believe that to be an unlikely scenario. It illustrates that the product really works.

S. Miller asked what is the life of the system? Mr. Krause stated I'm not sure it has been around long enough to tell you the life of the systems. There are compressors, pumps, piping and ductwork. Obviously those components have a failure rate.

S. Miller asked what does the salesman say? It should last forever? Mr. Krause stated no, there is just not a number I can give you. It could be that in year 14 you are going to have to put some money into it. It could skip to year 23 that you have to put money into it. I just threw in 10,000 at year 20 because that is a reasonable expectation for pumps and things like that.

B. Howard asked our electric bills will increase because of the pumps. Mr. Krause stated this factors the electric costs. You are right this is an electrical source of energy. B. Howard stated the pumps run 24/7? Mr. Krause stated no just when you need to heat or cool it. Which obviously is optional. B. Howard stated the pumps will be running off and on year round. Mr. Krause stated no. B. Howard stated well you're either heating or cooling. Mr. Krause responded only if you choose to cool. I can only address the heat side of it and that is very accurate. Obviously if you cool all summer that number would go up. It is more efficient to cool that way.

B. Howard that would take us beyond year 20 if we start cooling all summer. Mr. Krause stated absolutely and asked why would you cool all summer. B. Howard stated because we do now.

We have air conditioners in the school. We just bought half a dozen. M. DeCoff stated this will be on a zone. Mr. Krause stated you will have various zones. S. Miller asked in your professional estimate what is the big rats nest. What is your worst fear of what could happen?. For instance things have happened at the high school that nobody expected. After a few years what could blow and are we indemnified under warranty if they do blow. Mr. Krause responded the compressors typically end up with a 5 – 10 year warranty we could increase the number but you pay for it. It's like an extended warranty. You usually stick to the 5-10 year range and expect that you are getting a good enough quality within that range attached with it your going to go out further than that. Some of the problems we had at the high school are unrelated to geothermal. They found asbestos issues and structural issues that had to be corrected and unrelated. S. Miller questioned and you expect from what you said that any significant cost would not hit before year 14 or year 18? Mr. Krause responded it's a crystal ball it could happen in year 10, it isn't suppose to happen in year 10. S. Miller asked what does a compressor go for? Mr. Krause responded there are smaller compressors so I don't know the price off the top of my head. It's not like you are working with 3 units in the whole school, you are working with multiple units. So they are fractional costs so thousands of dollars not tens of thousands of dollars. S. Miller commented this have been very helpful. I appreciate your work. Mr. Krause responded I would have brought it before if it had been requested. I'm sorry I missed your other meeting but I did have a previous commitment. If I backed off on then they wouldn't have been happy. I apologize I couldn't make it, sometimes there are conflicts.

B. Howard asked and these numbers accurately reflect the up come of geothermal in the state of New Hampshire in this particular zone. Mr. Krause stated correct. Realize that I used 50% when they are telling me we can now do 70%. I used 9% for the oil increase when the last 5 – 6 years it has been 10%. There are a couple of safety factors in there also.

K. Holt asked Mr. Krause currently we use air conditioners, if we were able to replace those with geothermal do we save money. Mr. Krause responded you do save money and I factored in 10,000.00 for usage of room air conditioners right now for a savings of 5,000.00 It is a very important note that Mrs. Howards made that the more you use it the more it is going to cost. The air conditioning comes because it is very much like a refrigerator. Turn it the other direction you get the cooling out of it. We are not paying extra to put an element in to get AC out of it because of the nature of the system but it does cost electricity to run.

L. Tilly asked for a quick clarification. When you were giving us the numbers earlier that includes all 3 warrant articles, the worst-case scenario one. K. Oblenes that is just for the one ACS renovation one.

Article 5

If Article 3 be adopted shall the Alton School District raise and appropriate the sum of 2,070,555.00 to construct a gymnasium at the Alton Central School including equipment, professional services fees, site development costs and any other item incidental to and or necessary for said gymnasium. To authorize the issuance of not more 2,070,555.00 and no cents in bonds and notes in accordance with the provision of the Municipal Finance Act and authorize the School Board to issue and negotiate such bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and further to raise and appropriate and raise an additional sum of 47,162.64 for the first year's interest rate on the bond. This article is contingent upon approval of Article 3.

This was added because some people wanted to include the gym. L. Goosens stated there was also a petition article so it would have been added either way.

Public Input

Andy McCloud

I was the one who put in this petition article and it was in direct response at whatever happened at the Grounds meeting where the gym got pulled out. I felt that this is such an important community resource that could be used year round by everybody in this room and the children. In pulling it out it really limited things. I want to point out something that occurred in the past couple of weeks. As you may or may not know I also do the computers for the town offices so I happen to be at the Parks and Recs building where it turns out that the entire basketball program got jeopardized because the PMHS could not longer support the 650 people who were going to be involved in the basketball at Prospect Mountain because there was a problem with the varsity basketball that got moved to Saturday. V. MacDonald asked they don't use the middle school? Mr. McCloud responded who doesn't use the middle school. V. MacDonald stated Parks and Recs. L. Goosens stated they do now. Mr. McCloud stated they may be doing that now. It was a decision where 12 students displaced 650 students to ACS, which displaced some other people. It occurs to me that if we had a larger better facility these things wouldn't happen. Also using these at night for adult programs, which I think is a wonderful resource not just for the students. A. McCloud asked what our student population was, 548? Principal Leggett stated 549 now. There is also 58 home-schooled students who can also use the facility. That is 607 students who could use this facility directly as a community in general. That was my entire point in bringing the petition forward and then the school board decided to take it on and I just decided to let them take it and run with it.

S. Miller has a question for the School Board, we have a wonderful gym at the high school? Why aren't we using the high school gym for the community? L. Goosens there are 4 basketball teams up here using the gym for practice and games. I don't know when you think they would use it. It is used all the time at night. S. Miller continued if there was a brand new gym now it wouldn't be able to be used anymore than it does now? L. Goosens it would be a gym, cafeteria it would be a multipurpose area. It would be used for phys ed during the day which I know has issues and then the gym could be used as a gym. S. Miller so there would be 2 gyms in the school, is that what you are saying? L. Goosens responded stated there wouldn't be two gyms, one gym. S. Miller what I'm saying is being used now for whatever, basketball, volleyball whatever, by changing gyms that is not going to effect the usage from the community one bit. K. Holt stated they can use the multi-purpose area for other things. The basketball courts won't be there. S. Miller asked if when a basketball team is practicing what is available to the community. Principal Leggett stated either the gym or the multipurpose area. If it was a basketball team it would most likely be in the gym. So the multipurpose area. S. Miller if it was the multipurpose area does this area have hoops. K. Holt stated it would be the present gym. S. Miller stated so you would have two gyms. K. Holt stated yes we would. We wouldn't be able to use more now. S. Miller stated it is not replacing it is a new gym. It will be a multipurpose area used for phys ed during the day and then it would be used as a gym. There would be 1 gym being used now, by changing gyms that is not going to affect the basketball courts, will still be there. If a basketball team is practicing, the multipurpose area would be available. Except for lunch.

K Holt showed where the new gym would be on the plan and described plans for the kitchen. Discussion on gym space and size.

S. Miller had a question for the School Board on whose responsibility is it to provide space for community activities for Alton. Is it the towns or schools responsibility?

L. Goosens responded school is for the community use. There is a request that needs to go through the school in order to get use of the facility.

S. Miller whose ultimate responsibility is it to provide space for community activities in the town of Alton for adults? Is it the town of Alton or the School.

Public Input

Rebecca McKellar

My husband was at a basketball practice for my son who is in the second grade, he is on the 3rd-4th grade basketball team. These are not big kids and not adults playing in the gym and he still felt it was not safe the bleachers are too close to the clearance of the court, kids could easily be hurt and then you are dealing with lawsuits and that is a lot of money.

V. MacDonald stated you can slide the bleachers back.

R. McKellar responded is that safe?.

V MacDonald you could find something wrong with any gym or school or anything.

L. Goosens for practice it is OK to move the bleachers back, but for a game you need the spectators there. V. MacDonald noted that in New Durham they sit on the stage.

Kristi Heigel

I am a parent in this community and I am also a phys ed teacher. I spent quite a bit of time in this room and I hope you understand that it would be very remiss of me to not support this. I do not think physical fitness is frivolous. I do not think health is a waste. Last year I ran two after school programs one called Move and Groove for K thru 2 and another one called Get Up and Go. Where we were teaching pre-sport, pre skill activities to children. Mr. Parems and I can't do that this year. There is no time available for the physical education department to run after school programs in our own building. Because we need to make room for sports or parks and rec. We bend, we bend, we bend.

V. MacDonald asked why don't the schools come first

Because we look at the numbers we can do, the commitment we can make, past practices. We are starting something new. It was relatively successful last year but I would feel horrible if we wanted to start something new this year and we bumped a wonderful existing program. You don't take away what is good and what is already going really well to try something new. I would love to see more. I want more physical activity, I want more opportunities. Times have changed. When I was a little girl I would go outside and play. My mom would flick the lights and I would go home. Most parents can't do that anymore. They don't have a place to send their kids after school where they know they are safe and supervised and taught proper fitness activities. I would also point out my equipment room where I store things, it's in the old locker room. I store the balls next to the toilet. I store the gym mats next to the shower. That space could be improved. It could benefit the students. I'd Like taxpayers to have the opportunity to say yes this is something we can do or it is not. I am always going to benefit from more physical activity in this town. I will never say lets take away from this so we can do this. These are good programs that are already there. We squeeze them in so we can do this, we make it work, but we can do more. I'd like support for that. That is what I ask the community and that is why as of this to go forward.

Linda Wilmen

I'm sure you can appreciate the delicate hats we are wearing this evening being parents and teachers at the school. I'd like to speak as a parent first. My daughter has been in the school for

years and she has participated thru parks and recs and basically plays every sport under the sun. So if there is a dance at the school they can't have their practice or there game there. For a number of reasons I think it would be beneficial for the students at the Alton Central School to have this new area so they can have two things going on at the same time. That is my taxpayer/parent suggestions. Speaking as a teacher at the school we have really ramped up the services we have after school and the programming like Mrs.Heigel said for after school activities. We share the cafeteria with Weight Watchers. We battle a little bit about where we can go as Kristy says we don't want to move anyone out of their classrooms. Teachers are there after school doing their planning. It can be quite disruptive for a volunteer group going into a classroom where they are doing something loud and they are trying to have a meeting at the same time. That is my input, don't want to move people out of the school.

S. Miller asked why does Weight Watcher take precedent over the kids?.

L. Wilmen stated I believe they pay to use the building. V. MacDonald stated we have the community center down the bay. Principal Leggett stated all the requests for facility use comes through my office I know that the district has tried really hard to make sure there is cooperation with the town. I think that if the space is there we want to use it efficiently. Because we don't want to say no and leave something empty. Now you have to get your own gym. We do want to cooperate. There shouldn't be that much of a separation from the school and the town because we all usually have a common goal. S. Miller commented the town may not have great facilities, but the town has alternative facilities. What I don't understand is why Mrs. Heigel program would even consider not taking precedent over community activity. Principal Leggett responded it is our after school sports. V. MacDonald commented as far as Weight Watchers we have the community building, Mt. Major Building in West Alton. K. Holt stated it is not big enough. K. Oblenes stated we have moved them around our facility.

Public Input

S. Renner

I am going to speak to the security of the existing gym. I routinely play volleyball at on Tuesday nights at the gym, the Alton Central School gym, used to play at the high school until there was an incident, not involving our group a different group. For a period of time no one had access to the facility without supervised use. That is a different issue. I think there are certain things that can be done to free up particularly PMHS for community use. When we are in they're playing volleyball, to be honest I feel that I can walk around that building anywhere I wanted to. The door is unlocked to the outside of the building anybody could walk into that building.

V. MacDonald stated that is up to the janitors to have it locked down.

Mr. Renner continued unfortunately for the access we have there is no double door closure. If you walk in that door yes there is one to the left towards the cafeteria but not one to the right. We could access, anywhere that leads up to the Music Room, the Art Room, downstairs to the Locker rooms the gym offices. It is not a secure location. The way that the new gym would be designed it could be sealed off still have access to storage if you needed equipment or utilize equipment, access to the restrooms, but the rest of the building would be sealed off. That would be true for any community event. If parks and recs were to come in the rest of the building would be sealed off. The other thing is just a positive note about the PMHS basketball issue. I work with the younger kids, the first and second graders and we were not bumped from our time slot because we are early enough in the morning on Saturday's. The benefit of using that facility is that the hoops are adjustable. If I were to do this program at Alton Central we don't have

adjustable hoops and there is no way a first or second grader can shoot a ball properly at a 10-foot hoop. Fortunately, Prospect has the ability for us to lower the hoops and had we been bumped out of there we wouldn't have been able to teach kids shooting. Certainly could have worked on other fundamentals of the game but it is added bonus the kids get to play a scrimmage at the end of the day. That is a positive thing I'm sure that will be something implemented in the new gym as well. In terms of the community owning a gym the school owning a gym, why not have the community build one. The community is building one it just happens to be attached to the school. I'm not going to buy two kayaks so I can kayak on Merry Meeting and Kayak on Winnetoesaukee. I'm going to buy one kayak and figure it out how to take it where I'm going to take it. We are going to have 2 ½ gyms and I think that is going to be adequate to meet all the needs of the community and the school.

Article 6

In the event that article 5 is defeated to see if the school district will vote to create an expendable trust fund under Provision RSA 198:20-E know as the Geothermal Energy Trust Fund for the purposes of contracting and installing a geothermal heating system at for the Alton Central School and further to raise and appropriate the sum of 50,000.00 towards this purpose and to name the school board as agents to expend this fund. This warrant article is to be void and have no effect if Warrant Article 4 is approved by the voters. Alton School Board Recommends.

M. DeCoff stated as preliminary we did not recommend that one.

J

Public Input

None heard

S. Miller has a couple of questions At 50,000 a year it will take 35 year before you get a Geothermal Unit. My best guess is that technology 35 years from now will make this null and void. There will be some other technology that will be more appropriate at that point.

No. 2 If this is adopted why wouldn't you bond this for a 1,750,000.00 right now, that's an alternative have a 20 year bond for 1,750,000.00 and I would like to see the comparative cost between a bond and 50,000.00 a year. It seems to me that if we keep putting in 50,000.00 a year there are going to be years periodically where this is going to be turned down. You can't guaranty it is going to be based for 35 straight years Therefore the chances are this may go as long as 40 years or 50 years. It seems questionable whether this makes sense unless you are either going to do it or not do it. To say you are going to fix the windows eventually that's a forever deal, the bathrooms are a forever deal. I understand the reasons for it but this is just another forever deal where we are putting 50,000.00 every year in to a fund that quite frankly will probably won't be used in my lifetime. My question my alternative if this is going to work, the numbers make sense to me, you bond the 1,750,000.00 right now and put it in. If the school doesn't pass The only reason you wouldn't do that is because if the school doesn't pass this year the renovation of the school you would want to bring it the next year, the next year and the next year. You would probably have this as a white elephant already bonded out.

K. Holt stated she is not sure why you would bond something for geothermal. S. Miller stated if the renovation doesn't pass the 18,000,000.00, and I don't know one way or the other, I'm in favor of some renovation, I just not sure of what right now. If that doesn't pass, you bond this, once that bond passes have you made a commitment not to renovate and put this into the school or can it be used for the new school? In other words the pipe are they portable? K. Holt responded the Buildings and Grounds Committee was very clear that when the project total came

in the total cost was higher than anticipated and at that time the anticipated interest rate on that bond was higher than anticipated. The committee said if we remove the cost of the gym and we put the geothermal on a separate warrant article, so that people can see that is something they can do it will be a cost savings over time and if they don't want to do it we'll have it as a separate article. Let's take the gym off, put the geothermal out as a separate warrant article so they can see that cost as a separate cost and vote it in recognizing that we will do our best on educating them on the cost savings long term. That is why there are two separate warrant articles for the cost of the renovations rebuild and addition, and the cost for the geothermal. Both the cost for the rebuild and geothermal will be bonded. The 18.8 and the 17.5 will be part of a bond and we will do them together. The second geothermal will do two things, If we do not get the re-build, then we will not obviously do a geothermal. If however the rebuild is close and the voters vote for the geothermal. We will have set aside some money as a savings plan. And have a sense that people want to do geothermal when we do the rebuild. Kind of like getting a sense of where the voters are going. If they don't vote for geothermal we will have a sense of that as well. It gives us two things, money set aside in preparation of a geothermal heating system and gives us a sense of what the voters are thinking of as a program. We could say no we are not going to do it, but it is a way to save and get a sense of public opinion at the same time.

V. MacDonald stated it would be easier to do a poll.

K. Holt stated we have not had very good luck with polls. We've gotten a small amount of people saying 50/50. S. Miller said would it make more sense to put the two geothermal articles together so instead of on separate pages they can look at them. K. Holt stated we actually talked about placement and we felt that it would be more confusing. Put the three articles that will be bonded together and the other geothermal after that so that it didn't look like we were doing two geothermals together. V. MacDonald stated to me it looks like you want geothermal for the new building and if you don't get it you want to take money anyway to put it into an account because we are going to get geothermal slammed down our throat. K. Holt stated we are not trying to slam it down your throat we are trying to see if you want it. V. MacDonald said if we say no here it should be no here (referring to list of warrant articles). K. Holt not necessarily. What if you say no because you don't want to bond at this time. VM stated then you ask for geothermal down the road. It feels like your slamming it down our throat. This is how the school board does it, they are going to get it one way or another. K. Holt described saving for various items. V. MacDonald this is not a new hit, this is not repairing, this is a brand new item. If we say no for geothermal then that it should be no, not put money aside in an account because we are going to get it one way or another. K. Holt stated let the voters decide.

K. Agrigopolous addressed V. MacDonald regarding the last sentence of the warrant article before the recommendation section. This warrant article to be void and have no effect if Article 4 is approved by the voters.

V. MacDonald stated what I'm saying is if Article 4 is not approved putting money aside we are going to get geothermal no matter what. One way or another you're going to get your geothermal I guarantee it. B. Howard commented start raising and appropriating and setting money aside that is what the money is for you can't spend it on anything else. V. MacDonald continued it doesn't matter one way or another they are going to get it. L. Goosens stated if you vote no for both your not getting it no matter what. B. Howard continued if this passes and there is no going back. The voters don't have a way of saying no. L. Goosens stated they always have an option of voting yes or no. If they don't want geothermal vote no for both of them. They have an option.

K. Holt stated I make the assumption that the Alton Voters can figure it out.

5 minute recess 9:05

Meeting called back to order 9:15

Motion by M. DeCoff to recess until Thursday evening to give the Budget Committee the opportunity to review articles and school board contract.

V. MacDonald Seconds

All in Favor

L. Carr would like a copy of previous contract.

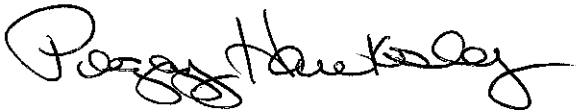
S. Miller makes a request to the school board could you itemize where all the changes both qualitative and quantitative.

Adjourned.

9:25 pm

Approved March 12, 2012

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peggy Harkley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.