

**Town of Alton
Budget Committee Meeting
January 11, 2011
Minutes approved March 10, 2011**

Members Present:

Stephen Miller, Chairman
Krista Argiropolis, School Board Representative
Virgil MacDonald, Member
Doug Kirkpatrick, Member
Barbara Howard, Member
Pat Fuller, Selectmen Representative

- I. **Call to order** at 6:17 p.m. by Chairman.
- II. **Roll Call** – verbal roll call. Marc DeCoff not present.

III. Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Approval of Agenda.

Discussion of public input, school budget and will accept any questions from the public during the process. The Chairman would like to give opportunity for public to speak and that all comments are directed to the issues and not individuals.

Changes to agenda. Under Old Business add “e. Any other old business.” Under New Business add “b. Any other new business.”

The school budget will be discussed under New Business a. Description of Variances. Noted that there has to be one or two adjustments in dollar amounts.

Terry Noyes (public) noted that under an RSA that a public hearing needs to be opened. To allow for public input and then needs to be closed.

MOTION by V. MacDonald to hear Old Business a., b., and c. after the public hearing. Second by B. Howard. Discussion. Questioned that they will make changes to the budget after the public hearing. Noted there will be changes. (6:25 p.m. brief recess to confirm RSA/6:30 p.m. reconvened meeting). MOTION was withdrawn.

Further discussion of the Agenda. Chairman would like to move V. The Approval of Minutes to the end of the meeting.

MOTION by K. Argiropolis to approve the Agenda as amended with the opening of the hearing coming before public input, V. Approval of Meeting’s Minutes moved to the end of the meeting, under Old Business adding e. Any Other Old Business, under New Business adding b. Any Other New Business and the close of the meeting will be after public input at the end of the Agenda. Also, adding The Review of the proposed Teacher’s Contract for the Alton Teacher’s Association and the Alton School Board that was distributed. [Noted this should not be heard tonight because of just receiving this and not being able to review the document before the meeting, noted the Board just approved this yesterday. Also noted that this has been submitted on time]. Second by P. Fuller. No discussion.

In Favor – K. Argiropolis, S. Miller, D. Kirkpatrick, B. Howard, P. Fuller.

Opposed – V. MacDonald.

MOTION passed 5-1.

K. Argiropolis noted that the School Board is not looking for a decision tonight. They are just presenting this with the changes and want this to be part of the hearing.

Open Public Hearing.

V. Public Input.

POINT OF ORDER – on public input and hearing. Suggested by T. Noyes that when discussing the budget that you go line by line and ask for input.

VI. Old Business.

a. 1140 Technology (Reduce by \$13,914).

Reducing by \$13,914 which is the benefit number that the committee did not have for the individual who was getting the \$8,000 raise.

Public input.

Kathy O'Blenes. Alton School Business Manager, Alton School District. Noted that the deduction that is being referred to under Technology is actually for the Buildings and Grounds Department (half-time additional custodian.) This is an addition that was coming in. \$8,200 was the amount taken out for the additional salary.

Kathy Holt, Superintendent. Noted there had been a question whether the Budget Committee had reduced this amount twice.

Jeff St. Cyr, Alton School Board Chairman. Question on when he will have the opportunity to present the proposed teacher's contract and when will he have the opportunity to discuss some of the specific recommendations the Budget Committee has in regards to budget reductions for specific departments. Chairman noted they will go over the contract after they go over the budget. Individual variances will be discussed after they are presented on a line by line basis. Public input will be allowed after each statement.

Continued discussion on the 1140 Technology reduction. There were two reductions in the Technology account and one was for \$8,000 and change and the other for \$7,000 and change. There was an understanding that the first one was for the raise to the technology individual that they did not approve and the balance was the additional benefits that this raise would entail for that person. Chairman went to the Business Manager what the numbers were and she came forward to clarify these amounts. Difference was \$7,375.00. The \$8,882.00 was out of the salary line for a technology assistant. The raise was to bring that position up to a higher rate of pay. That was a straight salary amount. There was no deduction to the FICA or the retirement. Those are the only benefits that would have any effect on taking out the salary amount. The \$7,375 was questions by K. O'Blenes as to the intent. Chairman noted he went over the minutes and saw an additional deduction. So noted after this that the \$7,375.00 is not due to increased benefits based on the increase raise to the position. Noted by K. O'Blenes that this position is still full-time, still receives the same benefits. The only thing that was not taken out was the FICA and retirement. The

\$8,882.00 is a salary only line and the FICA and retirement needs to be deducted from this line. K. O'Blenes noted the adjusted figure is as follows: FICA \$679.47 and retirement line \$813.59 for a total of \$1,493.06. Bottom line for this item is \$5,882.

MOTION by S. Miller that line 1140 be increased by \$5,882. Second by B. Howard. No Discussion.

In Favor – S. Miller, D. Kirkpatrick, B. Howard.

Opposed – K. Argiropolis, V. MacDonald, P. Fuller.

MOTION failed. 3-3.

b. PHMS corrected budget.

Mr. Miller noted the Prospect Mountain High School corrected budget. These figures have been checked with the Business Manager. No motion needed. It is an accurate number. The JMA budget committee accepted the Prospect Mountain High School Budget without any changes.

c. Buildings and Grounds Benefit line.

Noted the Budget Committee made a number of decreases to the Buildings and Grounds Budget and did that on a line by line basis. Then with motions to deduct that total amount from the School Board recommendations and that figure was deducted from \$913,983 which was the proposed budget and came up with the figure of \$825,897. When checking with the minutes, and looked at each individual item that they decreased Buildings and Grounds by, it came up to a different figure (\$102,086.) Itemization of the \$102,086. Reduced Bottled Gas by \$1,000. Reduced Fuel Oil by \$32,000. Reduced Electricity by \$5,000. Reduced chairs by \$7,000, Reduced adding a half-time person by \$13,086 and the corresponding benefits of \$13,914. Because of the architects contract and wanted to reduce Buildings and Grounds by \$30,000 they reduced Snow Plowing by \$30,000, knowing that they could use other funds for snow plowing. So that total came \$102,086 and needs to be subtracted by the School Board's recommendation \$913,983 giving an adjusted figure of \$811,897. What was not counted in was the \$13,914. At that time probably did not have the corrected number.

MOTION by S. Miller that the Buildings and Grounds Budget Committee recommendation to \$811,897.

Second by V. MacDonald. No discussion.

In Favor – V. MacDonald, S. Miller, D. Kirkpatrick, B. Howard.

Opposed – K. Argiropolis, P. Fuller.

MOTION passed 4-2.

d. Minutes 12/14 – Article 15 should read Article 14.

So noted.

Side Note: K. O'Blenes had Chuck Stuart come up and she wanted to make sure the number that the Budget Committee is approving for Prospect Mountain is clear. Chairman noted \$3,370,546. K. O'Blenes noted this is an old figure –based on December 14 School Board approval and there is an update from January 4, 2011. Chuck Stuart spoke and stated the total budget that was approved is \$6,894,028. And the breakdown is 48.82%. So the Budget Committee share is \$3,365,664. Chairman noted a reduction of about \$5,000.

MOTION by S. Miller that they recommend that the Prospect Mountain High School Budget of \$3,365,664.

Second by B. Howard. No discussion. S. Miller asked what the \$5,100 discrepancy was? Noted

improvement of instruction, Budget Committee share of the Warrant Article. No further discussion.

In Favor – K. Argiropolis, V. MacDonald, S. Miller, D. Kirkpatrick, B. Howard.

Abstention: P. Fuller
MOTION passed 5-0-1.

- e. Any other Old Business.
None seen or heard.

VI. New Business.

a. Description of Variances.

1100 Regular Program \$3,220,875 BC recommends \$3,220,875, No difference, No public input.

MOTION by S. Miller that the Budget Committee recommends a new Technology (1140 line) the amount of \$246,952 (old number \$241,070). Second by D. Kirkpatrick. Discussion. K. O'Blenes noted it was off by \$5.00. New figure \$246,952. No further discussion.

In Favor – S. Miller, D. Kirkpatrick, B. Howard, P. Fuller

Opposed – K. Argiropolis, V. MacDonald.

MOTION passed 4-2.

1140 Technology \$257,327 BC recommends \$246,952. Public input. K. Holt expressed concern as to what the Budget Committee had done. Chairman noted that the Budget Committee attempted to do what to not recommend the \$8000 raise to the Technology individual. It was voted twice and there were two separate votes, the first being correct and the second being incorrect. So they voted back the money on the incorrect vote less the benefit numbers that they did not have at the time but were provided today. K. Argiropolis noted that the vote failed for the FICA and Retirement (3-3). S. Miller noted that because the vote failed they should not be subtracting the benefits of \$1,493. Discussion on what numbers to use. S. Miller noted the new number will be \$248,445. Noted they voted against the raise.

MOTION by S. Miller that it is recommended 1140 Technology line to \$248,445. Second by P. Fuller. No discussion.

In Favor – S. Miller, D. Kirkpatrick, B. Howard, P. Fuller.

Opposed – K. Argiropolis, V. MacDonald.

MOTION passed 4-2.

1200 Special Education \$1,706,999 BC recommends \$1,706,999. No public input.
1205 Spec. Extended Yr. \$47,683 BC recommends \$47,683. No public input.
1280 Enrichment \$156,176 BC recommends \$194,156. Increase of \$37,980 to make the part-time of a half-time enrichment teacher full-time. No public input.
1410 Co-curricular Act \$48,983 BC recommends \$47,677. Reduction of \$1,306. Reason being that the School Board used a too high of a number to pay for the co-curricular after-school activities. No public input.
1420 Athletics \$49,216 BC recommends \$49,216. No public input.
1430 Summer School \$15,541 BC recommends \$15,541. No public input.
2120 Guidance \$212,440 BC recommends \$212,440. No public input.
2130 Health Service \$88,096 BC recommends \$88,096. No public input.
2150 Speech Service \$105,098 BC recommends \$105,098. No public input.
2210 Improvement to Instruction \$86,792 BC recommends \$74,992. Reduction of \$11,800 due to the fact that in previous years has the approval of the Instruction account been higher than \$32,000. There is also a Warrant Article for the Improvement of Instruction and they are trying to make this a more realistic number. No public input.
2220 Library and Media \$119,908 BC recommends \$119,908. No public input.

- 2310 School Board \$68,138 BC recommends \$63,638. Reduction of \$4,500. Budget Committee did not accept the increase in the proposed audit figure and the Business Manager agreed that \$63,638 was a more viable figure. No public input.
- 2320 SAU Expense \$206,023 BC recommends \$206,023. No public input.
- 2410 Principal's Office \$334,161 BC recommends \$334,161. No public input.
- 2510 Business Services \$119,282 BC recommends \$119,282. No public input.
- 2600 Building Maint. \$913,983 BC recommends \$811,897. To be itemized as follows.
 Reduced Bottled Gas by \$1,000. Reduced Fuel Oil by \$32,000. There is a corresponding Utility Warrant Article that in the past the voters have approved. Reduced Electricity by \$5,000 based upon the High School having more space having a reduction in their electricity account which is an increase in the Alton Central account. Reduced chairs by \$7,000 due to the particular economy. Reduced adding a half-time person by \$13,086 for the addition of a half-time custodian and the corresponding benefits of \$13,914 and felt that the slack could be picked-up possibly by the director. They also reduced Snow Plow by \$30,000. Intention was to take \$30,000 from Buildings and Grounds for the hiring an architect to do plans on a new or highly renovated school that has not been approved by the taxpayers. There was also a recommendation from the Budget Committee to present this as a warrant article. K. Argiropolis stated the School Board chose to not present this as a warrant article. Public input. J. St.Cyr asked if the Budget Committee could explain why they made these recommendations. Chairman stated they just did. Specific reasons were they were over budgeted. Discussion on the chairs. Chairs are badly rusted. Suggested that the janitors paint them. Question on why the chairs are indoor chairs and are rusty. Explained that the chairs are used by many different people and organizations. Suggested these chairs are approximately 40 years old. Terry Noyes noted the use of the chairs beyond school use. Chairman questioned didn't they request this last year or next year. Mr. St. Cyr responded it could have been 10 years ago. Chairman stated that it was not necessary. Discussion on the \$30,000. Budget Committee feel the tax payers are being informed on why this money is being spent on drawings for a multi-million dollars project. Feel they have not followed proper procedures. St. Cyr noted that the School Board did hire this architect in 2005 with 5 year contract to work with the Buildings and Grounds committee. The Buildings and Grounds Committee, formed of Alton residents have worked on what the best solution would be and are looking at a major renovation project but no costs have been stated. Chairman stated that the Department of Education has 20 guidelines that are available on line for how to go about renovating a school. At a previous meeting the Chairman had gone over approximately 10 of those guidelines and determined that the Buildings and Grounds committee had not even used any of these guidelines. J. St. Cyr confirmed that if this \$30,000 was presented through a Warrant Article that they would approve this. Chairman confirmed yes. Sandy Wyatt (member of Buildings and Grounds Committee) asked for confirmation again that if this was a Warrant Article the Budget Committee would recommend. V. MacDonald confirmed yes.
- 2721 Trans. Basic Contract \$345,233 BC recommends \$345,233. No public input.
- 2722 Trans. Special Education \$163,900 BC recommends \$163,900. No public input.
- 2724 Trans. Athletics \$14,917 BC recommends \$14,917. No public input.
- 2725 Trans. Field Trips \$11,500 BC recommends \$11,500. No public input.
- 2330 Prospect Mt. HS \$3,365,664 BC recommends \$3,365,664. No public input.
- 3100 Food Service \$248,541 BC recommends \$248,541. No public input.

Public hearing closed.

Short break for new calculations (7:55).
Reconvened at 8:04 p.m.

New total for the operation budget recommended by the School Board is \$8,292,271. The operating budget recommended by the Budget Committee is \$8,201,677. Variance of \$90,594.

Prospect Mountain High School Budget is the same as the School Board. The total budget without the warrant articles is \$12,949,663. The School Board recommends \$13,040,257. The Budget Committee recommends \$12,949,663. Variance of \$90,594.

No public input heard.

Warrant Articles

K. Argiropolis stated that there are two representatives that would like to represent a study on the wind power warrant article and asked if they could go first.

A study provided by Meridian Associations was distributed.

Chairman read the warrant article.

Article XVIII:

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of **Thirteen Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars and No cents (\$13,800.00)** to fund a Wind Power Feasibility Study of the High School property, said sum representing Fifty and No Hundredths Percent (50.00%) of the total monies. Twenty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Dollars and No cents (\$27,600.00) and further that this appropriation shall be contingent upon both the Alton (50.00%) and Barnstead (50.00 %) School Districts adopting this article and raising and appropriating their respective sum of money. The Prospect Mountain High School Board is hereby designated the agent to expend these funds. (Prospect Mountain High School Board Recommends by vote of 8-1).

Discussion of Article XVIII: Chuck Stuart the Business Administrator for Prospect Mountain High School. Noting this is the second part of this process. Last year there was a similar article that asked for a feasibility study. This has been completed and the conclusion out of that. There is a definite possibility that a wind turbine could pay-off for the district. The second part of the study, put up a tower, measure the wind velocity, direction and frequency over the course of a year. At the end of that time they will analyze the data and move into the next phase which is a permitting process. Visit each of the town boards that is involved in this (i.e. Zoning, Health, Selectmen) to determine local requirements. After that process they come back with a report that will tell what the data shows, payback on the process, permitting pitfalls, etc. and then come back with a payout plan. Then come back to the voters again and say this is the data and what will happen. As a for-instance they might find that they can reduce the electricity costs at the high school by a 1/3 and pay for the whole process through a bonding process or a lease process that would pay itself off in 10 or 12 years and beyond that would have a return on the investment. What they end up doing is selling power back to the power grid. Once this article is approved they can go ahead with that study, they can do all the necessary parts of the process and then come back to the voters and say this is what we have found out and would like to move ahead or not. Noting that the kids will be incorporated in this project and into the Science curriculum. Possibly 15-20 students.

Meridian has already been paid \$3,500 to cover this study. More phases will approx. cost \$35,000 and the final phase could possibly be over \$200,000. Chairman asked if this is their intention to make this a

profitable enterprise. Answered that when the turbine is running you usually generate more electricity than needed.

Kathy O'Blenes, Alton Town resident. Question in comparison with cell tower. Question of height restriction, etc. Mr. Stuart answered there are many misconceptions with wind towers and that is why you go through all this initial permitting process. To find out what the opposition is, answer questions, public hearings, etc. before you commit to the major costs. And yes, the community might say no to continue the process.

Chairman asked how much money will be at risk at the point if they were turned down. Answered approximately \$30,000. Meridian handles attorney fees as well.

MOTION by V. MacDonald to accept Article XVIII as read. Second by B. Howard. Discussion: V. MacDonald stated this is not a lot of money to what can be obtained. D. Kirkpatrick added this was a cap on the money they can spend. S. Miller disagreed stating this involves only 15-20 kids, and feels knowing how the cell tower went and getting a feel for the "appetite" around here and feels it will be difficult to pass and it is all good intentions and probably will make money but doesn't feel it will pass. Taxpayers will not get the benefits of the wind tower. Discussion on who will get the benefit. B. Howard feels this is an opportunity for a special education and any time you have 15-20 students who will benefit educationally from this and even if this project doesn't pan out, who is to say that those 15-20 are not going forward in this as a career to benefit the town further down the road. V. MacDonald noted that the town did vote for the feasibility study. S. Miller felt it was like voting \$30,000 for a law class. 15 kids who want to be attorneys and funding the class for them – kind of the same situation.

In Favor – V. MacDonald, K. Argiropolis, D. Kirkpatrick, B. Howard.

Recused – P. Fuller, S. Miller.

MOTION passed 4-0.

Article II: To determine and fix the salaries of the School Board and the compensation of any other officers or agents of the District as follows: Moderator \$200 per meeting; Clerk \$200 per meeting; Treasurer \$2,000; Chairman of the School Board \$2,100; School Board members \$2,000. These cost items are included in the operating budget. (The Alton School Board recommends by vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee does recommend by a vote of 6-0).

Article III: To see if the District will vote to 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 **TWELVE MILLION NINE HUNDRED SIXTY ONE THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$12,961,169.00).**

Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$12,853,289.00, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the school district 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 warrant article does not include appropriations in ANY other warrant articles.)*

MOTION by S. Miller to change the figure on Article III to \$12,949,663.00. Second by P. Fuller.

In Favor: S. Miller, V. MacDonald, D. Kirkpatrick, B. Howard, P. Fuller.

Opposed: K. Argiropolis.

MOTION passed 5-1.

Public Input.

T. Noyes asked if this amount included cut because they did not put a warrant article in for the architect?

S. Miller stated yes (\$30,000.00) less out of Building and Grounds. Not because they did not put a warrant article out for this but because the Budget Committee feels they are spending \$30,000.00 without the permission of the taxpayers to go ahead and build a new school or major renovations.

T. Noyes asked if they put the warrant article for the \$30,000.00 the Budget Committee would put the \$30,000.00 back in.

S. Miller confirmed the Committee says yes.

P. Fuller noted that the warrant article should have been posted today and it is too late to do so.

Article IV: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00)** to be added to the existing Building and Grounds Expendable Trust created 3-11-08 under RSA 198:20-c for the purpose of building, repairing, and maintaining school facilities. (The Alton School Board recommends \$150,000.00 by a vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee recommends \$150,000.00 by a vote of 6-.)

Article V. A Special Warrant Article

To see if the School District will vote to establish a Contingency Fund under the provisions of RSA 198:4-b to meet the cost of unanticipated utilities expenses that may arise during the fiscal year 2011 at Alton School District. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of **Sixty Thousand Dollars and No cents, (\$60,000.00)** toward this purpose and to name the Alton School Board as agents to expend from this fund. A detailed report of all expenditures from the contingency fund shall be made annually by the School Board and published with their report. (Any funds not used will be returned to the Town.) (The Alton School Board recommends \$60,000.00 by a vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee does recommend \$60,000.00 by a vote of 6-0.)

D. Kirkpatrick asked what makes this a Special Warrant Article? Is it because the unused funds will be returned to the town. Confirmed from other committee members that he is correct.

K. Argiropolis noted a clarification in Article III that at the end of the article in bold print "The Alton Budget Committee should read "The Alton School Board".

Article VI: To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Alton School District and the Alton Teachers' Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2011-2012	\$ 36,015.00

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND AND FIFTEEN DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$36,015.00) for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the

prior fiscal year in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement. (The Alton School Board recommends \$36,015.00 by a vote of 5-0.)

MOTION by S. Miller to table Article VI to the next meeting as the contract has not been read by the Budget Committee and will not recommend a contract they have not read.

Discussion: on when this can be voted on. Noted that the warrant articles have to be in by the 18th. Noted that this contract was finally negotiated 1/6/11 and Mr. St. Cyr would like to present the contract tonight.

Second by V. MacDonald.

In Favor: V. MacDonald, S. Miller, D. Kirkpatrick, B. Howard, P. Fuller.

Opposed: K. Argiropolis.

MOTION passed 5-1.

Discussion on how will this be posted and when will it be heard again? K. Argiropolis noted concern it should be done correctly. S. Miller noted the town and school are posted for all meetings going forward.

Article VIII. A Special Warrant Article.

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to **Fifty Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$50,000.00)** to be placed in the existing Building and Grounds Expendable Trust created 3-11-08 under RSA 198:20-c for the purpose of building, repairing, and maintaining school facilities, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2011 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2011. (The Alton School Board recommends \$50,000.00 by a vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee recommends \$50,000.00 by a vote of 6-0.)

S. Miller asked if these newly printed articles have any new wording? K. Argiropolis stated that only some punctuation has changed. S. Miller asked no wording of intent? Affirmed correct.

Article IX: A Special Warrant Article.

To see if the School District will vote to create an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 198:20-c, to be known as Roof Expendable Trust, for the purpose of repairing, replacing, and maintaining roofs on school buildings. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Thirty Five Thousand and No cents (\$135,000.00)** toward this purpose and to name the School Board as agents to expend from this fund. (The Alton School Board recommends \$135,000.00 by a vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee recommends \$135,000.00 by a vote of 5-1.)

Article X: A Special Warrant Article.

To see if the School District will vote to create an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 198:20-c, to be known as Parking Lot Paving Expendable Trust, for the purpose of repairing, replacing and maintaining parking lots on school properties. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$10,000.00)** toward this purpose and to name the School Board as agents to expend from this fund. (The Alton School Board recommends \$10,000.00 by a vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee does not recommend \$10,000.00 by a vote of 2-4.)

Article XI: A Special Warrant Article.

To see if the School District will vote to create an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 198:20-c, to be known as Facilities Truck Expendable Trust, for the purpose of replacing school facilities truck with plow. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$10,000.00)** toward this purpose and to name the School Board as agents to expend from this fund. (The Alton School

Board recommends \$10,000.00 by a vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee does recommend \$10,000.00 by a vote of 4-2.)

Question by B. Howard on "replace the truck with a plow"? Discussion wording and should be "truck/plow".

Article XII: A Special Warrant Article.

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$30,000.00)** to be added to the Bathroom Refurbishment Fund previously established in March 2005, under the provisions of RSA 35:1, for the purpose of refurbishing the bathrooms at the Alton Central School. (The Alton School Board recommends \$30,000.00 by a vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee does recommend \$30,000.00 by a vote of 6-0.)

Article XIII. A Special Warrant Article.

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Forty Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$40,000.00)** to be added to the Windows Replacement Fund previously established in March 2005, under the provision of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of replacing the windows at the Alton Central School. (The Alton School Board recommends \$40,000.00 by a vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee does not recommend \$40,000.00 by a vote of 3-3.

Article XIV: A Special Warrant Article.

To see if the School District will vote to establish a non-capital, non-lapsing reserve fund known as the "Alton Professional Development Fund" for the purpose of reimbursing teachers for the costs of professional development, and to raise and appropriate up to the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$20,000.00)** from the June 30 unreserved Fiscal Year 2011 fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1 of this year to be placed in the Fund, and to designate the Alton School Board as agents to expend from the "Professional Development Fund". A detailed report of all expenditures from the fund shall be made annually by the School Board of Alton and published in their annual report. (The Alton School Board recommends \$20,000.00 by a vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee recommends \$20,000.00 by a vote of 5-1.)

Public input:

K. Holt noted there was one word changed. They added the word "Alton" to Professional Development Fund.

Also noted it should be changed further in the article to add the word "Alton".

Article XV: A Special Warrant Article.

To see if the School District will vote to add to a non-capital, non-lapsing reserve fund known as the "Improvement of Instruction Fund" for the purpose of reimbursing teachers the costs of professional development, and to raise and appropriate up to the sum of **Fifteen Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$15,000.00)** from the June 30 unreserved Fiscal Year 2011 fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1 of this year, which is Fifty and No Hundredths Percent (50.00%) of the total monies of Thirty Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$30,000.00) and further that the additional appropriation shall be contingent upon both the Alton (50.00%) and Barnstead (50.00%) School Districts adopting the article and appropriating and transferring their respective sum of money. The Prospect Mountain High School Board is the designated agent to expend from the "Improvement of Instruction Fund". A detailed report of all expenditures from the fund shall be made annually by the respective School Boards of Alton and Barnstead and published in their annual reports. Approved and Recommended by the Prospect Mountain School Board 9-0. (The Alton School Board has not voted on this article at this time.)

K. Holt noted the Alton Board will be voting on all of the articles later this evening. Discussion on when this will be voted on. T. Noyes noted this will be taken care of later tonight. S. Miller asked the Budget Committee how they felt and if they want to vote on this article tonight.

MOTION by K. Argiropolis to approve Article XV as read. Second by V MacDonald. No discussion.

In Favor: K. Argiropolis, V. MacDonald, S. Miller, D. Kirkpatrick, B. Howard, P. Fuller.

MOTION passed 6-0.

Article XVI: A Special Warrant Article.

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty Three Thousand, Six Hundred Fifty Six Dollars and 50 cents (\$33,656.50)** to establish a contingency fund under the provisions of RSA 198:4-b (Contingency Fund) to meet the cost of unanticipated utility expenses that may arise at Prospect Mountain High School during the fiscal year 2012, said sum representing Forty Eight and Eighty two One Hundredths Percent (48.82%) of the total monies. Sixty Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred Forty Dollars and No cents (\$68,940.00), (1% of the General Fund), and further that this appropriation shall be contingent upon both the Alton (48.82%) and Barnstead (51.18%) School Districts adopting this article and raising and appropriating their respective sum of money. The Prospect Mountain High School Board is hereby designated the agent to expend from this contingency fund. A detailed report of all expenditures from the contingency fund shall be made annually by the respective School Boards of Alton and Barnstead and published in their annual reports. (The remaining funds not used will be returned to the district.) Approved and Recommended by the Prospect Mountain School Board 9-0. (The Alton School Board recommends \$33,656.50 by a vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee recommends \$33,656.50 by a vote of 6-0.)

Public Input:

P. Fuller asked about the contingency funds for the schools as they have large amounts and why couldn't this be budgeted. S. Miller asked school board persons in the public how many gallons of fuel oil do they use in a year. It was answered approximately 40,000. Noted that just in fuel oil alone if it goes up \$1.00, that's an increase of \$40,000 that is not in the budget. T. Noyes noted the school fiscal year is July – June and this budget is 6 months before the fiscal year even starts. P. Fuller asked if the school has contracts for fuel. T. Noyes noted the contracts don't go out until next summer. P. Fuller noted the town has 3 year contracts. B. Howard asked if the town can invite the school to purchase at the same time to save money? D. Kirkpatrick noted that if this is not spent it does go back to the district.

Article XVII: A Special Warrant Article.

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$20,000.00)** to be added to a non-lapsing capital reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1-c known as the Prospect Mountain High School General Maintenance Fund, said fund to be used for the purpose of meeting the cost of unanticipated general maintenance expenses that may arise at Prospect Mountain High School; said sum representing Fifty Percent (50%) of the total monies, **Forty Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$40,000.00)** and further that this appropriation shall be contingent upon both Alton (50%) and Barnstead (50%) School Districts adopting this article and raising and appropriating their respective sum of money. And further to designate the Prospect Mountain High School Board as the agent to expend from the fund. A detailed report of all expenditures from the general maintenance capital reserve fund shall be made annually by the respective School Boards of Alton and Barnstead and published with their annual reports. Approved and Recommended by the Prospect Mountain School Board 10-0. (The Alton School Board recommends \$20,000.00 by a vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee recommends \$20,000.00 by a vote of 6-0.)

Article XVIII:

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of **Thirteen Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars and No cents (\$13,800.00)** to fund a Wind Power Feasibility Study of the High School property, said sum representing Fifty and No Hundredths Percent (50.00%) of the total monies. Twenty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Dollars and No cents (\$27,600.00) and further that this appropriation shall be contingent upon both the Alton (50.00%) and Barnstead (50.00 %) School Districts adopting this article and raising and appropriating their respective sum of money. The Prospect Mountain High School Board is hereby designated the agent to expend these funds. (Prospect Mountain High School Board Recommends by vote of 8-1). The Alton School Board has not voted on this article. The Alton Budget Committee recommend \$13,800.00 by a vote of 4-0.

Break at 8:55 p.m.

Reconvened a 9:10 p.m.

Chairman noted that the School Board Chair, Jeffrey St. Cyr will make a presentation on the new Master Agreement for the Alton Teacher's Association effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

J. St. Cyr stated it was his intent to go through the contract line by line as to what the changes are from the 2007-2010 contract which they are currently operating under and to what they are purposing to the citizens of Alton to be voted on at deliberative and on March 8, 2011.

S. Miller noted they would probably be looking at this contract on the posted January 17, 2011 meeting. Prior to that time, it was requested to provide the Budget Committee with a comparison of the changes.

J. St. Cyr stated this is what he is intending to do now.

S. Miller still requested this comparison.

J. St. Cyr stated he would do his best to provide this comparison, but for the record he still intends to go line by line to state all the changes in this document provided.

J. St. Cyr stated that some of the language proposals are similar to the contracts that failed on November 2 and in March of 2010. So of the language was carried through during this most recent negotiations.

Section 2.1.3

The change in this section is that new employees will be working 2 additional days beyond the 185 days they are required to work currently. Before this it was one and now it will be two. Any questions?

S. Miller confirmed that the new employees would be required to work 187 days? J. St. Cyr confirmed yes. All new hires in their first year will work 187 days.

Section 2.1.5

This is a new section to the contract. It adds team leader group to the contract. Team representatives will receive a \$500 per year stipend for their work.

S. Miller asked how much will this totally impact the budget? J. St. Cyr stated there will be no impact to the budget, it is currently there. These salaries are not more than they are currently spending. \$500 times 5

team leaders. B. Howard asked who will they be meeting with on a monthly basis? J. St. Cyr responded they will be meeting with the principal. The \$500 is less per person than they are currently spending in the budget. Budgeted was \$750.00 and this is at \$500.00.

Section 3.4.2

Regarding re-employment. When a teacher is laid-off, as long as they keep them notified within a 24 month period of their mailing address, they will have the opportunity to include them in considering re-hire. As long as they are qualified to do the job, they will be offered the job.

Section 4.3.6

This deals with professional improvement. As of May 31, any funds that remain in that account line, teachers will have the ability to apply up to \$1,500 for additional reimbursement for professional development. The cost of professional development is currently in the operating budget.

S. Miller asked about reimbursement for mileage? J. St. Cyr stated that mileage is paid under a separate line. K. Holt noted the \$1,500 is only for graduate level coursework. P. Fuller confirmed that this \$1,500 is only available if it is there. J. St. Cyr confirmed yes and it has to be approved by the Superintendent. B. Howard asked if there was a different line item for workshops? S. Miller stated they are entitled to \$2,000 under improvement of instruction. They are allowed to get mileage to and from. The high school does not. So this is a total of \$2,000. P. Fuller noted there is only \$1,500 in this account and no more than \$1,500 can be spent.

Section 4.3.7

This is just adding "his/her" to the wording.

Section 5.1.1

The original contract, there was a reference made that there would be a committee consisting on one board member, two administration, and three teachers to study the evaluation process and made recommendations to the school board by September of 2008. They are just removing that language since it is no longer in the contract.

4th paragraph that is being removed since it is no longer in the current contract.

Section 5.2.2

Teacher personnel files. If a teacher has a need to access their personnel file, they need to notify the SAU with 24 hour notice so that the secretary can have time to prepare for this. Previously it said with reasonable notice. They felt that by adding 24 hours that would define what reasonably is. Moving toward the end of that paragraph, "Material will be removed from the files and destroyed by mutual consent of the teacher and the person responsible for the information and the Superintendent." This section adds the Superintendent who is also responsible before any items can be removed from a personnel file.

S. Miller asked if there is a difference in this contract and the contract ending 2010? J. St. Cyr confirmed yes and the differences are between the 2007-2010 contract that they are currently operating under to what they are proposing for the next couple of years.

Section 6.3

This section is designated to ensure substitute coverage, no more than (4) individuals will be approved on a first come first served basis for personal leave on any one day. This will help ensure substitute coverage. This is the only change to this section.

Section 7.2

Only change here is grammatical. Third line of 7.2 change from "that" to "than".

S. Miller asked if a teacher takes a leave of absence for a year, they are still paid benefits? J. St. Cyr responded if it taken for a sabbatical yes, not just for a leave of absence. Benefits are not mentioned in this section. This is section is just for a leave of absence. There is a separate section explaining sabbatical leave.

Section 8.2.1

The change here is when an employee has a grievance, they are to discuss the matter in a conference with the individual's immediate supervisor. If the issue is not resolved with this process the individual may seek a conference with the principal.

Section 8.3.4.1

Change is changing wording from "executive session" to "non-public" session.

Section 9.2

The dues deductions in bi-weekly payments based on 20 pay periods per year instead of 26.

Section 10.3.1

This is primarily for budgeting purposes. If a teach anticipates a track movement for the following school year, they will notify the SAU office by October 1 of the previous year so they can plan for that track movement in the budgeting process.

Section 10.4

Reference those teachers working in the Alton School District on or before June 30, 2009 who have taken graduate Level credits prior to earning an MA, MEd or MS will be permitted to use those credits toward Track Movement.

Explanation – there have been situations where teachers have come back and said they received credits before they received a Master's degree and wanted to take the credit that they earned before they earned the Master's and want to apply to a Master's plus. This practice is stopping at this point with this change. This put's this in writing.

Section 10.5

Salary Schedule. The way the step track system will work, teachers will remain on their step as they are during the current academic/fiscal school year. For the purposes of this contract for the next fiscal year each of these parts of the salary schedule will increase 1.4%. You will note the paragraph under the schedule where it says, "All employees shall be frozen on the step of the salary schedule that they occupied on June 30, 2011, and all employees who start on or after July 1, 2011 shall be frozen on the step of the salary schedule at which they are initially hired. Step raises shall not be part of the pay plan under this Agreement, and shall not be paid if the Evergreen Law applies after expiration of this Agreement. No employee who starts work on or after July 1, 2011 shall be placed at a higher step of the salary schedule than an employee with the same experience who started work before July 1, 2011".

Essentially, what this is doing is they are bringing this contract forward without including the Evergreen Law. Currently, the Evergreen Law is up for debate at the State House and is in the process of being repealed. What they are trying to do is say that all steps will be frozen based on what they are as of June 30 of this fiscal year and that the only salary change will be 1.4% increase. Everyone gets a 1.4% raise. They will remain on the same step. If their degrees change they will be eligible to move tracks. This is a one year agreement.

Section 10.5.1

There is no change from the current contract in Section 10.5.1. The longevity stipend will remain at \$500.

S. Miller asked when the last time teacher's received a raise. J. St. Cyr noted it was in the 2009-2010 academic school year. They had a 3 year contract beginning 2007-2010. Teachers are still on the same step that they were as of June 30, 2010. B. Howard noted that the taxpayers have still paid for their retirement fund, even though they are not seeing an increase in their paycheck, there is an increase in the tax bill.

Section 10.6

There is a section begin removed that was called the SAU Study Committee Compensation. In the previous contract of 2007-2010 there was a committee developed to study and review changes to the way the SAU Compensation worked. Originally it was just 3.75% of the base salary. At the time the committee came back with the recommendation that it would be 3.75% base salary divided by 30 hours so that people would be paid by the hour instead of just receiving one flat payment even if they were working only one hour on that committee for the year. That committee information is being removed. Reference to the committee is being removed because the work was done back in 2008.

Section 10.6.1

\$33,934 multiplied by .1% of the base teacher's pay. Hourly it would be \$33.93 (savings of \$7.90 per hour). Cost breakout, the cost of the 1.4% salary increases would be with the step system and then subtraction of approximately \$2,200 for the cost savings in the change of the hourly payment for committee work. All committees are board approved and the cost of the committees is included in the operating budget.

Section 10.6.2

The change is the word "will". Also a committee has to work outside of the school day in order to be compensated. (E.g. Meeting during first period).

Section 10.8.1

Related to the longevity of a retirement bonus. The proposal was to increase the benefit from \$9,000 to \$10,000. There are no projected teachers to be retiring during the duration of this contract. The School Board has the ability to make exceptions.

Section 10.10

The change is that for teachers who start work on or after July 1, 2011 the school district will offer only the HMO plan.

K. Argiropolis wanted to respond to a comment made about mileage paid to teacher's taking college courses. That is not a practice of the SAU. It never has been. Teachers are reimbursed for conferences that they have to attend (as recommended by Principal or Superintendent). This was confirmed with Superintendent Holt.

J. St. Cyr noted the last change in the contract is just the length of the contract. It will be a one year contract beginning July 1, 2011 and extending until July 30, 2012.

S. Miller asked if there are any supporting staff tied to this contract? J. St. Cyr noted there are some parts of the contracts that do follow the teacher contract, but the administrative contract and support staff contracts are annual contracts with the School Board and the School Board does have the authority to change those contracts year to year and are not tied to the teacher contract. Both contracts are not directly tied to one another but when you look at an administrative contract there are references to the teacher contract, but again those can change when those contracts come before the board for each individual.

J. St. Cyr stated they will provide the written changes for the Budget Committee. Asked for the Committee's support of this proposed contract or please don't hesitate to ask questions if necessary in order to make your informed decision.

Public input

T. Noyes noted that if they hired an administrator or a new employee they could offer them a POS (health insurance). She also asked if the Budget Committee would provide information on what has been approved for raises, steps or benefits for the town employees?

S. Miller noted he does not have those documents with him at the meeting. P. Fuller answered this year, for the town 80% of the employees get a step and the cola this year is 1.6%. All of the budgets this year have come in level funded, under-funded. The increase in the town budget is 2.7% currently.

T. Noyes asked what they did last year with raises?

P. Fuller noted that last year only 9 town employees received a step and there was no cola. There were merit raises given last year.

T. Noyes noted this will be the second year, if this fails, with no increases.

P. Fuller noted the town, in the past two years has been a default budget and last year even went below the default budget regardless of any increases in salaries.

No other public input seen or heard.

S. Miller asked for any other new business.

Public hearing closed at 9:55 p.m.

Calendar

Next meeting is January 13, 2011 at 6 p.m. (public hearing).

Snow date for this meeting is January 14, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

January 17, 2011 meeting to go over Alton town plus anything left on the SAU.

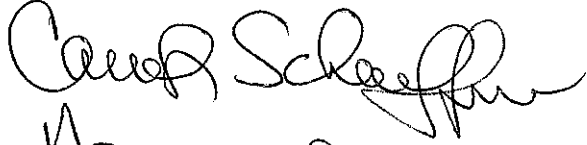
Snow date for this meeting is January 18, 2011 at 6 p.m.

K. Argiropolis noted everything has to be posted by January 18, 2011.

Noted meeting minutes will be voted on the 17th meeting.

MOTION by P. Fuller to adjourn. Second by D. Kirkpatrick. No further discussion.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Schaeffner



Approved March 10, 2011

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