

TOWN OF ALTON

**Alton Budget Committee
Public Minutes**

**APPROVED 6/12/08
February 12, 2008**

Members Present: Steve Miller, Chair
Gregory Fuller
Richard MacDonald
Karen Painter

Members Absent: Elizabeth Dominick
Jeffrey St. Cyr, Alton School Board Representative
Peter Bolster, Alton Selectmen Representative

I. CALL TO ORDER

S. Miller called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

E. Dominick, J. St. Cyr, and P. Bolster were absent.

III. ORDER OF BUSINESS

S. Miller spoke about the 02/11/08 Alton School Board Meeting. He noted they would ratify the meeting minutes of 02/02/08.

G. Fuller asked if any member of the Committee had four unexcused absences in a row. S. Miller noted that there had not been four unexcused absences by any member of the Committee.

S. Miller read the minutes of 02/02/08 to the Committee. R. MacDonald stated that he had said at that meeting that the Board deserved the raise but that he had also said that they had gone about it the wrong way. S. Miller asked this recorder to check the tape from 02/02/08.

[Recorder's note: In review of the 02/02/08 recording, this recorder cannot hear the comment R. MacDonald stated he made, but the comment is noted in these minutes, for the record.]

There was discussion about the posting of the 02/02/08 Alton Budget Committee and it was felt that the Alton School Board's three members being present at the meeting, constituted a meeting which also should have been posted for the Board.

R. MacDonald motioned to approve the meeting minutes of February 2, 2008 and K. Painter seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of three, with one abstaining, and three absent. (SM, KP, RM / abstain – GF / absent – JS, ED, PB)

S. Miller reported on the Alton School Board meeting on 02/11/08. He spoke about the comments made by Joyce Hopper during public input. He reported that she had apologized for putting the Board through this but that she had never stated there had been a meeting between her and *[comment drops off]*. He noted that Ray Carbone had had asked M. Smith to confirm her comment about bringing the raise from the floor and that she had nodded her head in the affirmative. He reported that the Board was very cooperative at the meeting. He discussed the comments he had made at the Board meeting. There was an open discussion about the raises written into the town's budget.

S. Miller stated that he was against giving the Board a raise because it was not an income but a service. He stated that it should be to take care of any personal expenses. He spoke about the justification for the salaries that the Board and other committee receive. There was discussion about the amendment S. Miller had presented at the Town's Deliberative Session to propose salaries for the Alton Budget Committee.

G. Fuller motioned to not recommend Article II and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, RM, GF, KP / absent – JS, ED, PB)

S. Miller motioned to recommend Article III and K. Painter seconded the motion. There was discussion about the purpose of the motion. S. Miller noted it was to make a statement and that they had ratified a previous vote in the 02/02/08 minutes. There was discussion about the process of the approval. S. Miller felt they would be breaking their word.

[Recorder's note: S. Miller's motion and K. Painter's second were not withdrawn.]

G. Fuller motioned to not recommend Article III. There was discussion about the JMA budget being included in Article III and how the JMA agreement was set up. R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion failed. (Yes – GF / No – SM, RM, KP / absent – JS, ED, PB)

S. Miller noted that if Article II failed but Article III passed that they would need to keep an eye on the expenditure line for the Board's salary. G. Fuller noted it was public record. K. Painter spoke about her concerns about how the raises were allocated and placed all in one budget line and then moved. S. Miller noted that they had taken money out of the budget line item for electricity but that replaced the money using the contingency fund that had been approved. K. Painter asked if there was a process for the transfer of money. S. Miller responded that it is done with the Board's approval. K. Painter noted that it would be in the meeting minutes of the Board and that she would be willing to track the funds transferred. S. Miller asked if the Board would get paid at all if Warrant Article II did not pass. G. Fuller and K. Painter both stated they didn't think the Board would get paid. S. Miller stated he had a call in to the DRA about this question. There was discussion about the public perception of the Alton Budget Committee and the Alton School Board.

S. Miller motioned to adjourn and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, GF, RM, KP / absent – JS, PB, ED) The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Recorder, Public Session