

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

1. Call to order 6:40 pm

2. Roll Call

M. Decoff, Chair
S. Miller, Vice Chair
B. Howard, Member
V. MacDonald, Member
L. Tilly, Member
L. Carr, Selectmen's Representative
J. St. Cyr, School Board Representative

Other attendees:
P. Hawksley, Secretary

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Agenda

S. Miller made a request to amend the agenda to add the elections of Chair and Vice Chair for next year. V. MacDonald stated we have to wait until after voting. S. Miller stated there is nothing in the RSA that says you have to do that. M. Decoff stated that is typically what this board does, but will discuss it. V. MacDonald made motion that S. Miller is the new chair. M. Decoff stated this would be placed under new business.

J. St. Cyr stated that his understanding of the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman occurs after the next board is established and at the first meeting of the year.

L. Carr made motion to approve agenda as amended.
B. Howard seconds

All in favor

5. Old Business

Approval of minutes for 12/6, 12/15, 1/3, 1/10, 1/12, 1/24, 2/4

L. Carr made motion to approve as presented minutes of 12/6
M Decoff seconds
4 in favor 3 Abstained

L. Carr made motion to accept minutes of 12/15 as presented.
M Decoff seconds
4 in favor, 3 abstained

L. Carr made motion to accept minutes of 1/3 as presented
M. Decoff seconds
4 in favor, 3 abstained

L. Carr made motion to approve minutes of 1/10 as presented
B. Howard seconds
4 in favor, 3 abstained

Minutes for 1/12 tabled. L. Tilly would like confirmation of the discussion for Article 2, on Page 8.

L. Carr made motion to approve minutes of 1/24 as presented
M. Decoff seconds
5 in favor, 2 abstained

Minutes of 2/4

L. Carr made motion to approve minutes of 2/4 as presented
M. Decoff seconds

M. Decoff thanked B. Howard for taking the meeting minutes.

V MacDonald had a question regarding the last page, third paragraph down, 60 % vote will be needed for the warrant article then they are going to adjust it. Is this after the vote they are going to adjust it? The amount of the bond will need to be adjusted. M. Decoff responded, no the 60% vote is needed to petition the court. J. St. Cyr stated I don't think we are bound by the 60% but we would ultimately want 60% of the voters to say yes we want these warrant articles. M. Decoff noted K. Holts said 60% and they would only petition the court if they got 60%. J. St. Cyr stated but we aren't bound by it, I just want to make that clear. S. Miller asked what percentage have you determined that if it was voted in favor that you would bring it to the court. J. St. Cyr stated I can't speak for the whole board but I think we would want more than the 60%. This is the permanent record of the Budget Committee if people go back and look at the history I don't want it to say that we are bound by 60%. We could petition the courts for any reason. Moving forward to present a case to the court we would want the 60% because if we came in at 59% that wasn't enough for it to pass in the first place.

B. Howard asked if the board wanted to change the word need. S. Miller stated you can't change the word these are minutes that reflect what took place. You can't change history.

J. St. Cyr suggested adding the location to the first page to where the meeting occurred. It talks about moving to the Music Room but it started at the Town Hall.

Minutes will be amended to read 12:10 pm started at Town Hall.

S. Miller asked J. St. Cyr if the school board had a discussion at what level they would bring it to court, at what percentage of the vote in favor of the renovation they would determine its viable to bring it to court? Have there been any discussions at all at any meetings?

J. St. Cyr responded not that I can recall.

S. Miller asked has this been discussed at non-public.

J. St. Cyr responded if it has or it hasn't I couldn't answer the question. I can't say what has been discussed in non-public.

S. Miller stated I understand that, but this is non a non-public issue.

J. St. Cyr stated I think the decision will be whether or not to petition the courts will be certainly be based on tomorrows outcome. That will be the decision of the next school board that is elected after tomorrow to make that decision.

L. Carr made motion to approve amendment to include "Town Hall".

S. Miller seconds

6 in favor, 1 abstained

L. Tilly motioned to accept the minutes of 2/4 with amendment

V. MacDonald seconds

6 in favor, 1 abstained

6. New Business

Discussion on the election of Chair and Vice Chair

M. Decoff stated in his opinion it should be left up to the next board. V. MacDonald stated it should be up to the next board because they don't know who will be on it. It is not fair for us to vote somebody in and some of us might not even be sitting here.

S. Miller asked is it precedent that the School Board moves the vice chair of the previous year to the chair of the next year automatically? J. St. Cyr stated that is not correct. S. Miller asked has it not happened in the last 5 years? When was it to you knowledge that it happened? J. St. Cyr responded I think when Mr. Carr was on the school Board. There is no guarantee that the Vice Chair is going to be Chair.

Discussion on voting for Chair and Vice Chair.

L. Carr stated he has only seen it once on the School Board. It never happened while I was a sitting member. I don't agree with that. S. Miller stated as long as I have been in town, as long as I can remember and I don't have the best memory, /but I have a fair one, the Vice Chair of the previous year has always been the chair the next year. You could say that was serendipity that just happened out of happenstance or you could say 10 out of 10 times there is a certain amount of consistency there that is now policy. L. Carr stated that happened after the elections. I know of only once that it happened before. S. Miller stated my guess is that there was a deal made ahead of time. That is my personal opinion. L. Tilly stated I don't think deals are the right way to run a committee and I think that it should be up to people sitting the committee that year to vote who they want to

have in the Chair position. S. Miller continued and that would go for the school board as well. L. Tilly stated I am not sitting on the school board. J. St. Cyr stated Mr. Miller I believe you are the current Vice Chair of this committee, tonight are you looking for us to put the Vice Chair in as Chair knowing that you are running for the School Board. How would that work? S. Miller responded, No what I am doing is because there is not a specific RSA that addresses this issue and there is no statutory evidence that says in fact we have to do it that way I brought it up for discussion and for a vote so that we have elections for Chair and Vice Chair prior to the next town wide election. You don't have to agree with it. What I'm saying what is good for the goose is good for the gander. That is a way of controlling the school Board going forward one more year. That is obviously a way of presenting it to the Budget Committee going forward one more year. You don't have to agree with it nobody has to vote for it. I'm saying what's fair is fair. J. St Cyr stated the last five years I have been on the school Board the School Board has only reorganized after Election Day. S. Miller responded that may be. Every single year for the last five years the Vice Chair has become the Chair the next year. That is one hell of a coincidence.

L Tilly made motion that the election of Chair and Vice Chair for the 2012-2013 year be held the first meeting after March 13 of the Budget Committee.

V. MacDonald seconds

All in favor, one opposed

7. Public Input

No public input

L. Carr stated that the minutes were the best he has ever seen. Excellent job.

Motion to adjourn

All in favor 7:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Hawksley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P".

Peggy Hawksley