

Town of Alton
Budget Committee Meeting
Minutes

March 20, 2007

Members: Stephen Miller; Gregory Fuller; Elizabeth Dominick; Virgil MacDonald

Other: William Curtin; Karen Painter (not yet sworn in at time of meeting)

Absent: School Board Representative; and Selectmen Representative

I. CALL TO ORDER

S. Miller called the meeting to order at approximately 6:45PM.

II. ROLL CALL

V. MacDonald was absent. E. Dominick arrived at approximately 6:15pm.

III. OLD BUSINESS

S. Miller announced he had received a letter asking about the SUV for the Alton Fire Department but since it didn't pass in the warrant article, it was a moot point. There was no other Old Business.

IV. RE-ORGANIZATION

There was discussion about the officers of the Budget Committee and the designated members of the Budget Committee. G. Fuller reviewed the RSA for the Budget Committee. The designated alternates of the school board representative and the selectmen's representative was discussed by G. Fuller, who stated that those alternates were appointed by the board they represented and were not to be chosen by the alternates, or be an "alternate to an alternate". There was a discussion about the history of the alternates who have sat in with the Budget Committee.

S. Miller stated that the office of chair and the recording secretary's contract be considered for renewal. G. Fuller asked about why the Budget Committee's budget was over for the previous year. S. Miller explained that the recording secretary was working more hours than had been worked in that position in the past. G. Fuller asked if the budget line item for that position had been increased. S. Miller stated that they level funded the budget, and would be the same as what was spent last year. The budget was at \$1,500 but \$1,800 was spent. There was a discussion about some of the expenses that were incurred last year. G. Fuller asked if anyone saw they were going to overspend or if they had gone to the selectmen to let them know they had overspent. S. Miller stated they had not and that there was a difference of the budget committee going three hundred dollars over budget and another department going several thousand dollars over budget. G. Fuller stated this was town policy. S. Miller agreed that he knew that was policy but that they did what they had to do and that R. Bailey was aware of most of their expenses. G. Fuller stated he felt it was the principal of the thing and he was concerned that there would be enough money in the bottom line to cover expenses. There was a discussion about getting some

of the books that had been bought for the budget committee back from the previous members of the committee, who were no longer sitting on the committee.

S. Miller asked if they wanted to discuss officers or if there were recommendations for officers. E. Dominick spoke about what she had learned in her first year on the committee and stated she appreciated some of the insights some of the members brought to the table. There was a discussion about who would be most suited for the chair and vice chair positions.

S. Miller discussed the secretary's position and duties. E. Dominick stated there should be a set amount of time for a job to be done and that the secretary should come to them when she might need more time. G. Fuller spoke about the time it would take to do the minutes and the billing cycle of the recorder. S. Miller stated he felt she was doing a good job and that he had a backup for when she was not available. S. Miller spoke about the frequency of the meetings and the amount of time spent in meetings. The recorder's position is paid under the Contract Services line item of the budget. G. Fuller suggested rather than have the recorder mail things to the members of the committee, to have the members of the committee come to the Town Hall to pick them up. There was a discussion about some possible cost savings.

S. Miller stated he would get a calendar agenda together for the review and approval of the Budget Committee at the next meeting.

V. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

S. Miller spoke about the attendance of the school board representative and the selectmen representative in the past. He stated that representatives from both boards should be sent and be well in attendance. There was a discussion about what the committee can do to ensure attendance and to let the community know when there is a lack of attendance from the representatives.

S. Miller spoke about the appointments to the schools' budget committees. He stated there were three positions, as representatives from the budget committee, for the schools' budget committee.

K. Painter introduced herself to the committee. She is from Stanton Island, moved to Alton in 1989, and has a BA in nursing. Her background is working in county nursing and working in nursing home administration. She currently works for Genesis-Mountain Ridge, Franklin. She is married and works full time.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

It was the consensus of the group to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:55PM. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at 6:30PM.

Respectively Submitted,

Krista A. Argiropolis, Recorder