

Budget Committee Meeting
APPROVED Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2018 @ 6:30 PM
Alton Town Hall
1 Monument Square
Alton, NH 03809

1. Call to order - at 6:30 pm by Acting Chairman, Roger Nelson

2. Roll Call:

Present: Acting Chairman, Roger Nelson
Vice Chairman, Greg Fuller
Member, David Hershey
Member, Beth Varney
Selectmen Representative, Reuben Wentworth

Absent: Karen Kharitonov, School Representative
Pat O'Brien, Member

3. Reorganization of the Board

To Appoint Chairman and Vice Chairman

MOTION by G. Fuller to nominate Roger Nelson as Chairman and David Hershey as Vice Chairman. No discussion. Motion passes.

Roger Nelson, Chairman David Hershey, Vice Chairman

4. Approval of Agenda

MOTION by R. Wentworth to approve the Agenda as presented. No discussion. Motion passes.

5. Approval of Minutes

February 2, 2018 – MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Minutes of February 2, 2018 as presented. Second by G. Fuller. Motion passes.

February 8, 2018 – MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Minutes of February 8, 2018 with one change to mark Greg Fuller as absent for the meeting, NOT present. Second by D. Hershey. Motion passes.

6. Old Business – None.

7. New Business

a. Discussion on the Purpose of the Budget Committee

R. Nelson. With regard to county, town, warrant articles, and two schools. Owe to taxpayers manage better than the Budget Committee has done in the past. Just agreeing to budgets presented are not doing justice to the tax payers. Please pay attention. Take time to review budgets before meetings. Would like to plan a night for a workshop, go over together without public input. Roger will do reporting 5-10 year history if the committee would like this information.

D. Hershey. Concern for Monies spent - missing component of budgets received do not include allocation and future capital expenses. Huge gap in budgetary process. Warrant articles are a poor planning on the part of the departments.

G. Fuller. Agrees but does it go in the budget or warrant article. Shouldn't be tucked in the budget. Can only be a line item for one year then goes to capital reserve.

D. Hershey. This process should be corrected along with the CIP program.

R. Wentworth. Discussion of revolving fund and how this works with the selectmen.

D. Hershey. Suggests need more than one workshop, Suggests making sure budgets are available in time to review. Summary sheet that Roger prepares useful. Feels suggestions are not considered.

R. Nelson. Agrees that suggestions are not followed through.

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- D. Hershey. Also include Loss forecasting under insurance.
- R. Wentworth. Noted and will try to follow through with these two issues.
- D. Hershey - concern for rubber stamping, 7m budget, 4 m warrant articles. Would like these put on the table.
- R. Wentworth. Noted he is a Water Commissioner now. Noted in Water Department will see contract services high and superintendent low. No superintendent at this time. Using Ms. Mitchell's license at this time. \$25 per hour, after 5 pm \$37.50. He will need to step down during time to review Water Department. There will be a future recommendation for town to take over the water dept. Feels Water Department needs a superintendent full time. Looking to regionalize with Farmington to share a superintendent. Working management position. 24/7. Some line items will be overextended. With regard to Non-Profits the Selectmen are working with town administration for non-profits to come in person and with more detail. Taking non profits and looking at what has been spent for the past years.
- D. Hershey. Concern with non profits - Genesis. Sitting on quite a bit of funds.
- B. Varney. Noted the non profits all asking from towns, counties, state levels.
- R. Wentworth. Would like to see financial records of non profits before making decisions.
- D. Hershey. Doesn't feel charitable contributions should be taken from the tax payers funds.
- B. Varney. Noted the town of Sanbornton does not allow non-profit donations in budget.
- R. Wentworth. Notes the need for a public hearing on subject. Give the public a chance to speak out and also give the non profit an opportunity to speak up and give us some information.
- D. Hershey. Questioned on water - has subbing out to another company been considered.
- R. Wentworth. They have not considered this, know of history of poor companies.
- D. Hershey. Noted has seen some companies with success. Worth the question.
- R. Nelson. Reminded all members of Budget Committee to abstain on any issue they are involved. For Example Pat O'Brien on Fire Department and Water Department.
- R. Nelson. Noted a concern that the Selectmen votes twice - as select board and budget committee board. Same as school board.
- D. Hershey. Referred to the Conflict of Interest doc that was signed by all members.
- R. Nelson. With regard to the School Budget in Gilford non-teaching people grew by 20%. Need to look at this for Alton.
- D. Hershey. Would like to do a 4 town comparison.
- R. Nelson. Has no issue with this done.
- D. Hershey. Described his ideas for the 4-town comparison.
- R. Nelson. Noted all communication should go through Mary Jarvis.
- G. Fuller. Would like to see the Selectmen moneis encumbered report; Line items.
- R. Wentworth. Explained the process. Will provide a list for Budget Committee members.
- G. Fuller. With regard to the petition article for Jones field. Would like answers to how the money is going to be spent and the who is the agent to expend. Legality of the issue.
- R. Wentworth. Will research an answer for Greg.
- G. Fuller. Asked about the bandstand in water. Moneys raised and appropriated for the roof. Is there enough money to fix it? Would like to know how much money is left.
- R. Wentworth. Noted there is money, one crib needs repair. Skirting needs to be replaced. Concern for led paint contamination. Can use a tarp to collect. Needing a committee in place and is not done yet. Electrical work needs to be done - needing quotes. John Dever has a report.
- D. Hershey. With regard to the Bandstand being a key focal point. Question should be what do we really want to see out at the bandstand.
- R. Nelson. Referred to the gazebo, preservation society of the bandstand no one has responded.
- R. Wentworth. Regarding Harmony park wall. Stone wall will be restored. Materials out to bid. Nobody showed up to the meeting. People complaining about what the selectmen decide on but no one came to the meeting.
- D. Hershey. Ask what is the Selectmen's ultimate goal for the Bay, is it included in the master plan?
- R. Wentworth. Noted the Master Plan is in need of updating.

b. Discussion Goals and Objectives (if necessary)

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8. Public Input (*subject matter ~ agenda items only*) None seen or heard. Public Input Closed.

9. Other Business

R. Nelson. Meetings in June and in August. Begin meeting regularly in September.

D. Hershey. Read a list of suggestions for this year's budget.

1. The Budget Committee position on funding not-for-profits (eligible for Federal support) with Town tax dollars.
2. Developing a 4 town benchmarking comparison by: Department, Tax Rate, Number of Employees, and Miles of Road (etc.)
3. Development of a consistent account process namely building in depreciation of capital equipment.
4. Modification of each department budget to reflect their revenue (if any) generated by their services – possible examples: Welfare, Ambulance, Fire, Police, Building Department.
5. Emphasis on Master Plan.
6. Request all departments prepare a due budget reflecting a reduction of 5% or more specifically outlining the services affected by the reduction.
7. Decision on the Mount Major Community Center.
8. Decision to eliminate all overtime and compensate for flextime.

10. Adjourn – 7:35 MOTION by D. Hershey to adjourn at 7:35 pm. Second by R. Nelson. Motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Schaeffner, Recording Secretary