

**TOWN OF ALTON  
BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED 9/11/08  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 12, 2008**

**Members Present:** Steve Miller, Chair  
Karen Painter, Vice Chair  
Elizabeth Dominick  
Gregory Fuller  
Richard MacDonald  
Steve McMahon, Selectmen's Representative

**Members Absent:** School Board Representative

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

S. Miller called the meeting to order at 6:43 PM.

K. Painter was absent at the time of roll call. There was not a representative from the School Board present.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

E. Dominick asked to add an item under "New Business".

G. Fuller motioned to approve the agenda, as amended, and E. Dominick seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, RM, SMc, ED, GF)

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

R. MacDonald motioned to approve the meeting minutes of February 12, 2008 and G. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of three. (SM, RM, GF / abstain – SMc, ED)

S. Miller motioned to approve the meeting minutes of March 27, 2008 and E. Dominick seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of three. (SM, SMc, ED / abstain – GF, RM)

G. Fuller motioned to approve the meeting minutes of April 10, 2008 and E. Dominick seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of four. (SM, SMc, ED, GF / abstain - RM)

*[K. Painter arrived at 6:55 PM.]*

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

G. Fuller noted in the meeting minutes of February 12, 2008 that S. Miller had stated he would contact the DRA concerning the school board's salary, as the Warrant article for the board's salary had failed. S. Miller reported he would hear from the DRA about the issue by July 1.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **ALTON CENTRAL SCHOOL:**

S. Miller reported that the Alton School Board is trying to raise \$500,000.00 for repairs to the school. He reported on the amounts from the different trusts that are being used and that the surplus from the budget will be used for the repairs. R. MacDonald stated that they could not use the end of year balance without a special meeting. There was discussion about the expenditure of funds. S. Miller asked if the Committee wanted to give direction on the issue. E. Dominick felt that the issue needed to be corrected so that the students had a safe building. S. Miller agreed.

S. Miller stated he didn't understand why Alton and Barnstead couldn't have a joint middle/jr. high school. He felt that the two towns had enough land and felt it was possible.

G. Fuller felt that the Budget Committee might need to be involved if more money needed to be raised but felt that the Committee didn't need to take any other action on this. S. Miller stated he was bringing this up to be helpful with the situation and wasn't doing it to "overstep" their bounds.

### **TOWN DEPARTMENT OVERAGES:**

S. Miller reported that the Highway Department had used 49% of their budget and the Water Department had used 50% of their budget already. There was discussion about the budget overages and some of the possible reasons for the overages.

The Recreation Department is \$-2,448.00 over budget for the budget line item for Contractual Services. S. McMahon stated he would find out about this overage and report back.

S. Miller spoke about the overage for Legal Fees and asked S. McMahon if there were any changes to this budget line item or if he knew what the proposed outcome would be. S. McMahon responded that he had no information about it to report. There was discussion about the

### **SAU #72 OVERAGE:**

S. Miller noted that the SAU #72, Equipment fund was over by \$2,019.00 and that he was going to ask about this if there was a representative from the school board present at the meeting.

G. Fuller asked if the board had appointed a representative yet. S. Miller responded that J. St. Cyr had told him that there would be a revolving representative present at the meetings but that there wasn't a specific representative. S. Miller stated that there hadn't been a representative from the Board yet at a Budget Committee meeting. It was the consensus of the Committee that a letter should be sent to the Board requesting a specific representative to attend Committee meetings. G. Fuller spoke about a similar situation from the previous year with a selectmen's representative who wanted an alternate position(s) available and felt that this was against the RSA pertaining to Budget Committees.

There was a brief break.

G. Fuller read RSA 32:15:

**32:15 Budget Committee Membership. –**

I. The budget committee shall consist of:

(a) Three to 12 members-at-large, who may be either elected or appointed by the moderator, as the town or district adopting the provisions of this subdivision shall by vote determine, who shall serve staggered terms of 3 years; and

(b) One member of the governing body of the municipality and, if the municipality is a town, one member of the school board of each school district wholly within the town and one member of each village district wholly within the town, all of whom shall be appointed by their respective boards to serve for a term of one year and until their successors are qualified. Each such member may be represented by an alternate member designated by the respective board, who shall, when sitting, have the same authority as the regular member.

G. Fuller felt that RSA 32:15 indicated there should be one member appointed and felt that a definitive representative should be appointed. S. Miller stated he would write a letter to the Board and make this request.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

E. Dominick, in reference to a phone call made to her by S. Miller on May 5, 2008, spoke about the demands that the Budget Committee placed on her time and the choice she made in May not to attend a meeting. She spoke about a phone call that S. Miller had made to her that made her feel chastised and disrespected by the Chair. She felt she had been singled out for being responsible there wasn't a meeting in May because a quorum wasn't present. She felt that a meeting in May wasn't imperative, considering the schedule the Committee had in the Fall and Winter of 2007-08.

S. McMahan felt that she was right and felt that this time of year, it wasn't imperative that the Committee met. He spoke about the May meeting and noted he wasn't able to attend. He stated he had been tired that night and was dealing with his health condition.

S. Miller responded to E. Dominick's statement. He stated that she was referring a phone call that they were having because he had called her to find out if she was coming. He reported she had told him she was stepping out for dinner. He felt that the fact she was addressing this at a public meeting was a "publicity stunt" because it was being taped. He felt he wasn't disrespecting her and felt that she should have given the Committee notice she wasn't attending so that the members wouldn't come out to find there wouldn't be a quorum present and waste their time. He felt that she was "immature" for bringing this up at a meeting that was being taped.

There were no other comments from the Committee.

R. MacDonald asked if the town had already started working on their budget. He spoke about special articles on page 18 of the Actual & Budgeted Expenses & Encumbrance and noted that nothing had been spent on Ambulance, \$139,000.00. S. McMahan stated he would check into that for more information. There was discussion about expendable trusts vs. special Warrant articles.

There was no further new business.

## **VIII. PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

G. Fuller motioned to adjourn and E. Dominick seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, SMc, ED, GF, KP, RM)

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Argiropolis  
Recorder, Public Session