

**TOWN OF ALTON  
BUDGET COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING  
June 16, 2022, at 6:00 PM  
Alton Town Hall**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Reuben Parker, Chair of Budget Committee  
Jacob Bemis, Member  
Elizabeth Varney, Member  
LeAnn LaPlante, Member  
Guy Maloney, Member

**OTHER PRESENT**

None.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 6:12PM. Roll call taken for members present.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

No changes were made to the agenda. **Chair Parker made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Bemis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**2. Motion to Re-in state Public Input**

Chair Parker stated that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the public input portion of meetings was removed but they are now looking to reinstate the public input.

**Chair Parker made a motion to reinstate the public input portion of the Budget Committee meetings. Mr. Bemis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**3. New Business**

**a. Welcome New Members**

Chair Parker welcomed the new members to the committee and presented resources for review by the members. He stated there is also a conference they can attend, usually in July or August, which can be informative to members of the Budget Committee; he will have Laura follow up with the details. Chair Parker stated he will be sure the periodical actual budget reports are shared with the members going forward. He suggested they try to have meetings with the various departments to learn how they operate and the struggles they face going into the budget season.

**b. Reorganize the Board**

Chair Parker stated this item is to appoint chair and vice chair for the committee through this year and into 2023.

**Chair Parker made a motion to appoint Jacob Bemis as the Chair of the Budget Committee. Ms. LaPlante seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Bemis made a motion to appoint Reuben Parker as the Vice Chair of the Budget Committee. Ms. LaPlante seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**c. Budget Committee goals for 2023 Budget Season**

Chair Parker stated the committee discussed last year what the department heads are looking for but by the time they asked, the departments were already building their budget. He stated the budget committee meetings should start earlier. Chair Parker also explained the department heads get direction from the Board of Selectmen but there is still opportunities for dialog with the departments moving forward. He stated with inflation what it is, he expects it will be hard for budgets to be reduced but the discussions with the departments will help give perspective and reasoning to the requests. The Board agreed their goal would be to keep budgets flat as much as possible. The Board discussed member assignments to meet with department heads.

**d. Meeting with Selectmen to discuss their objectives for 2023 budget**

The Board agreed it would be beneficial to meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss goals with the budget. Chair Parker will followup to set a date.

**e. Meeting schedule (frequency and ideal dates)**

The Board agreed to meet monthly until budget reports start coming in. Members will try to meet with the assigned department heads prior to meetings.

The next meeting was set for July 21, 2022 at 6:00PM.

**4. Old Business**

None.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

- **December 2, 2021 – No edits were made. Chair Parker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Bemis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **December 16, 2021 – No edits were made. Chair Parker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. LaPlante seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **January 4, 2022 – No edits were made. Chair Parker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. LaPlante seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **January 11, 2022 – No edits were made. Chair Parker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. LaPlante seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**6. Public Input**

No public present.

**Chair Parker made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bemis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jennifer Riel*

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary