

Budget Committee
APPROVED Minutes (Approved 9/4/2019)
June 26, 2019 @ 6:30 PM
Alton Town Hall
1 Monument Square
Alton, NH 03809

1. Call to order at 6:30 pm by Chairman O'Brien

2. Roll Call

Patrick O'Brien, Chairman

Bob Holt, Member

Roger Nelson, Member

Beth Varney, Member

Kristi Hikel, School Board Representative

Reuben Wentworth, Selectman Representative

David Hershey, Member Absent

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by R. Nelson to approve the Agenda with the addition of Approval of Minutes of March 27 2019.

Second by P. O'Brien. Motion passes with all in favor.

4. New Business

1. Department/Committee assignments

R Nelson noted there are 5 primary, police, fire, highway, parks and rec/cemetery, water

B. Holt volunteered to take Highway, Fire Department

General discussion on library department and the trust that is set up and how it is used.

R. Nelson - Volunteered to take Police Department, Solid Waste

Suggest a letter go to the specific department heads that there is a representative that will contact you within in the next few months to discuss the department may need. Selectmen are doing the same with the department heads.

R. Wentworth suggested to keep an eye on the IT department. \$135,000 now that grew up from nothing. If anyone has IT experience to review this department.

David Hershey was assigned IT department, Library

B. Varney - Parks and Rec (buildings and grounds/cemetery)

P. O'Brien volunteered for the Water Department

K. Hikel - school department

Discussion on getting P. O'Brien (chairman involved in the school budget committees) K. Hikel will look into this.

R. Wentworth informed that Paul LaRoche will be the selectman alternate.

Peter Leavitt is the school alternate.

2. Report on selectmen meeting. Implementation the 3.5 percent merit raise. Bob Holt was Present at the meeting. BOS did not approve it. R. Wentworth explained further about the presentation. General discussion on the Merit program.

5. Old Business

1. Review strategy for upcoming budget season

a. Rough Schedule/Outline

Discussion on when to start the department head meetings. R. Nelson suggested to have reviewed completed by December 15. Begin meetings middle of October. P. O'Brien to check with Mary Jarvis and the calendar for Thursdays.

P. O'Brien asked R. Wentworth to discuss with the BOS for when department heads to have proposed budgets to the BOS.

July off, August and September once a month. July have preliminary discussions with departments assigned.

b. Nonprofits Approval Process. P. O'Brien asked R. Wentworth about what the BOS process is going to be. R. Wentworth informed this will be discussed coming up.

2. Benchmark Survey - D. Hershey not present. P. O'Brien distributed to committee
K. Hikel asked to look at Gilmanton as well for information regarding the school's systems.
R. Wentworth suggested to add Wakefield. B. Varney to go online and see if she can get some more information on these additional towns.

3. Default budget item concerns. Issues regarding raises from last year. Discussion on reviewing the default budget. BC can only ask questions but do not have control to change the default budget.

6. Approval of Minutes

- March 27, 2019

Motion by B. Holt to approve the Minutes of March 27, 2019 as presented. Second by B. Varney. Motion passes with 4 in favor and 2 abstentions.

7. Public Input. None.

8. Other Business. None.

9. Adjournment. MOTION by R. Wentworth to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Second by P. O'Brien. Motion passes with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Schaeffner
Recording Secretary