

**TOWN OF ALTON  
ALTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
ALTON BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES  
APPROVED  
October 22, 2009**

Members Present: Karen Painter, Chair  
Marc DeCoff  
Richard MacDonald  
Loring Carr, Selectmen's Representative

Members Absent: Greg Fuller  
Steve Miller  
School Board Representative

Others Present: Russ Bailey, Business Administrator  
Members of the Public

I. CALL TO ORDER

K. Painter called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

II. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

III. AGENDA

K. Painter requested to table the reports from the school board representative. M. DeCoff motioned to approve the agenda as amended and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (KP, LC, MD, RM / absent – GF, SM)

IV. OLD BUSINESS

There was discussion about the meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee. L. Carr will schedule the meeting and report back to the Budget Committee with the date of the meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS – 2010 BUDGET

CODE OFFICIAL/BUILDING INSPECTOR

R. Bailey presented the proposed budget for the Code Official/Building Inspector. The Committee reviewed the budget line by line. The budget line item for Code Official – Salary will remain the same. There is a step-increase planned in the budget for one full-time assistant. The Selectmen's budget is \$80,538.00, the Dept Head's budget was \$84,686.00, and the budget for 2009 was \$82,879.00.

## POLICE

Chief Ryan Heath presented the proposed budget for the Alton Police Department for 2011. He spoke about the objective of streamlining services and fine-tuning the department without expense. He stated he needed to look at vehicles at this time because the current vehicles' maintenance was getting out of hand. He felt the budget was modest. He spoke about officer presence being a deterrent to crime and being able to solve crime. The appropriate coverage is necessary to ensure the safety of the citizens. He spoke about coverage for court and patrol.

Chief Heath spoke about the expenditures in the 2009 budget and noted that private duty wages was going to have some overage. He noted this is an area where they are not able to plan ahead as to when or for how long a utility company may need them for detail. There are no personnel requests in the budget. There are no out-of-sequence salaries in the budget. There have been no budget line item transfers in the 2009 budget.

The Committee reviewed the budget on a line-by-line budget. Chief Heath noted that he had two open positions for full-time officers and a dispatcher. He spoke about the use of part-time officers for summer-time coverage. There was discussion of overtime, training, and the use of part-time officers. It was noted that benefit buy-out budget line item (Selectmen's Budget) was \$1.00, which was consistent with other budgets.

Chief Heath reported that the budget line item for Contractual Services was for the Prosecutor and was not in last year's budget. He reported that this amount was paid out this year but there was no budget line for it.

There is a decrease of one percent from the previous year's budget.

## ANIMAL CONTROL

Chief Heath presented the budget for Animal Control. He reported that the pager that was in last year's budget was removed. The ACO is required now to have a cell phone and receives \$40.00/month for their cell phone. The pager was \$100.00/month, so this is a cost-savings. He spoke about the costs incurred from the fourteen abandoned cats left on Youngstown Road earlier this year, which resulted in a large fee from the Humane Society in Ossipee. The budgeted amount for 2009 was \$1,200.00 and the proposed budget amount for 2010 is \$1,200 but the year-to-date expenditure for Humane Society is \$3,234.00.

## GILMAN MUSEUM

The Committee reviewed the proposed for the Gilman Museum. R. Bailey reported the building is open for meetings but there are no regular hours for the museum. The museum is paid for by a trust fund. He spoke about issues with the septic system and noted that the system was root bound, so the system did not need to be replaced.

## INTEREST SHORT TERM

There is only \$1.00 in this budget.

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

R. Bailey reported on the budget for Conservation Commission for 2010. He reported that the Commission meets twice a month. There is an increase in the budget line item for office staff, as coverage is needed for meetings.

## INSURANCE

R. Bailey reported on the budget for Insurance. There is an increase to the proposed budget in the areas of Workman's Comp., and Property/Liability Insurance. He stated that there is a nine percent increase but this is not something that they can control. He noted there was a big spike in unemployment compensation because of the current economic situation.

## VI. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

## VII. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

## VIII. OLD BUSINESS

### COMPUTER SPECIFICATIONS – SOLID WASTE & PLANNING

R. Bailey reported that the specifications for the two computers would be provided when the computers were purchased. He spoke about the need for a laptop "tough boy" being needed for Solid Waste because of the office conditions.

## IX. COMMITTEE'S DECISIONS

L. Carr motioned to accept the Police Department (4210) as presented and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of three with one no vote. (KP, LC, MD / No – RM)

L. Carr motioned to accept the Animal Control (4414) as presented and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (KP, LC, MD, RM)

M. DeCoff motioned to accept the Gilman Museum as presented and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (KP, LC, MD, RM)

M. DeCoff motioned to accept Conservation as presented and L. Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (KP, LC, MD, RM)

L. Carr motioned to accept Short Term Debt as presented and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (KP, LC, MD, RM)

R. MacDonald motioned to accept Insurance as presented and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (KP, LC, MD, RM)

M. DeCoff motioned to accept Code Official/Building Inspector and L. Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (KP, LC, MD, RM)

X. ADJOURNMENT

M. DeCoff motioned to adjourn and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (KP, LC, MD, RM)

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Argiropolis  
Recorder