

Town of Alton  
Budget Committee Meeting  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
October 22, 2015  
Minutes  
Approved November 5, 2015

**I. Call to Order 6:3pm**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Roll Call**

Andy McLeod, Chairman  
Terence O'Rourke, Member  
R. Virgil MacDonald, Selectmen's representative  
Roger Nelson, Vice Chairman  
David Hershey, Member, Excused Absence  
Steve Miller, School Board Representative, Arrived 7:20pm  
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

**R. Nelson motioned to accept the Agenda as presented and was seconded by R. MacDonald with all in favor.**

**V. Public Input I**

None  
Public Input I closed

**V. New Business**

**A. Membership Discussion and Recommendation for Replacement of Resigning Member.**

A. McLeod informed the Committee that Marc DeCoff has resigned from the Budget Committee after accepting a position on the Board of Selectmen. A. McLeod has reached out to previous candidate Greg Fuller to see if he was still interested in the position. If Mr. Fuller is no longer interested in becoming a member of the Budget Committee the position will be posted.

**All members of the Committee were in favor of offering the position to Greg Fuller.**

**B. School Board Budget Meeting Scheduling**

The School Board would like to reduce the scheduled Budget Committee meeting from three days to two days. A. McLeod stated he would like to keep it to three days and adjust the schedule as necessary. The School Board has a conflict with November 18<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion on what additional dates would be available for the School Board.

Steve Miller arrived at 7:20 pm and stated that the School Committee would leave it up to the Budget Committee if they would like to keep the meeting schedule to three days, but they feel they can complete it in two. A. McLeod asked S. Miller about the possibility of switching the meeting currently scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup> to either December 2<sup>nd</sup> or December 9<sup>th</sup>. S. Miller stated either day would work. The School Board meeting will be scheduled for December 2nd. E. Russell Bailey will adjust the schedule and move the Warrant Article Meeting currently scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup> and move it to November 18<sup>th</sup>.

**All members were in favor of the change in schedule change.**

**C. Review Expenditure Reports**

**The school expense reports were tabled at this time.**

**D. Code Enforcement**

John Dever presented the Committee with a summary of the past years revenue to income expenses and provided an overview of the projected budget. The only increase is in the salary line. The Committee reviewed, asked questions and discussed the budget.

**E. Water Department**

Water Superintendent William Curtin answered questions presented by the Committee and there was discussion and review of various budget line items.

**F. Parks and Recreation**

Kellie Troendle gave a summary of the projected Parks and Recreation budget stating there is an increase in salary for the summer help and an increase for benefit buy out. The Committee reviewed, asked questions and discussed various budget line items.

**Buildings and Grounds**

Kellie Troendle provided the Committee with an overview and explanation on the proposed budget increases. There is also an increase in the full time wages for the cemetery worker who will work for 13 weeks for Buildings and Grounds. The Committee reviewed, asked questions and discussed various budget line items.

**VII. Public Input II**

None

Public Input II closed

**VIII. Old Business**

A. McLeod asked S. Miller how the surplus funds are returned to the Town. S. Miller responded that the surplus funds are shown as a credit to the next year on next year's taxes. R. Bailey informed the Committee that the DRA takes into consideration the surplus funds when calculating the tax rate and will reduce the tax rate by the amount of the surplus funds.

There was a discussion on the proposed warrant article to separate out the PMHS operating budget as a line item.

**A. Meeting Minutes Review of September 16, 2015**

**A. McLeod motioned to accept the meeting minutes of September 16, 2015 as written and was seconded by R. Virgil MacDonald. The vote was 4-1 in favor with R. Nelson abstaining.**

**Other Business**

S. Miller stated that as a point of interest the ACS school budget will be down about 2%.

R. Bailey handed out the Election schedule and informed the Committee that January 12th is the closing date for the Petition Articles. The last date to post the public hearing is the January 12<sup>th</sup> and the last day to hold the public meeting is the January 19<sup>th</sup>. These are the critical time periods. The Town Deliberative is scheduled for February 3, 2016. R. Bailey also provided an insurance summary sheet to the Committee noting that the health insurance rate went up 14% and they are still working on getting additional rates.

There was a discussion on insurance rates and available options.

R. Virgil MacDonald asked S. Miller what the surplus was for PMHS and S. Miller responded that it was not much due to the emergency repair of the roof and stated the surplus was possibly between \$30,000.00 and \$60,000.00.

**X. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Peggy Hawksley  
Budget Committee Secretary  
Approved November 5, 2015