

Town of Alton
Budget Committee Meeting
October 24, 2013
Minutes
Approved October 29, 2013

I. Call to Order 6:35pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Robert Daniels, Selectmen's Representative
Lawrence Tilly, Vice Chairman
Andy McLeod, Chairman
Ruth Messier, Member
Krista Argiropolis, School Board Representative
John Markland, Member
Elizabeth Dominick, Member

Other Attendees:

E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator
Ken McWilliams, Town Planner
Bill Curtin, Water Department
Kellie Troendle, Parks & Recreation and Buildings & Grounds

IV. Approval of Agenda

K. Argiropolis made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by R. Messier.

K. Argiropolis made a motion to amend and to add under New Business and under Item A, to add Item B, the Budget Committee Representatives to PMHS. The motion was seconded by R. Messier and was passed with all in favor.

A. McLeod made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by J. Markland and passed with all in favor.

V. Public Input

None
Public Input I closed

VI. New Business

A. Review of Planning, Water, and Park & Recreation/Buildings & Grounds

Planning Department 4191 – Ken McWilliams, Town Planner

K. McWilliams stated we were given a guideline of staying within a 1.8% increase overall and we have achieved that and stayed under. The major change this year is to propose a salary increase for the full time secretary position to make it more competitive with the other secretaries for Planning and Zoning.

The Committee asked questions and discussed various line items.

Water Department 4331 – Bill Curtin, Water Superintendent

B. Curtin gave an overview to the Committee and stated we are down about 10% and the biggest reason is the Depot Street Project. This was part of the second \$50.00 assessment that was sent out to all of the water users. The budget stayed within the 1.8% and is around 1.2% with the Depot Street project coming in under budget.

The Committee asked questions and discussed various line items.

R. Bailey stated that insurance went up about 7.9% and the figures were just received. He will check so see if the numbers have been added to the budget and will provide the Committee with an update.

The Committee agreed to move on to Item B until K. Troendle from Parks and Recreation/Buildings and Grounds arrived.

B. Budget Committee Representative to PMHS

Three members of the Budget Committee and an alternate are required for the PMHS Budget Committee. A. McLeod asked for volunteers.

K. Argiropolis made a motion to nominate A. McLeod, L. Tilly and E. Dominick. The motion was seconded by J. Markland.

Discussion: L. Tilly will not be able to accept due to personal obligations. A. McLeod and E. Dominick accepted.

K. Argiropolis amended her motion to include J. Markland and J. Markland declined due to his work schedule.

R. Messier stated that she could attend only as an alternate.

There was a discussion on the possibility of holding the PMHS budget session on one day. K. Argiropolis will look into further.

The Budget Committee Representatives nominated to the PMHS are: A. McLeod and E. Dominick, with R. Messier serving as alternate.

The motion was seconded by J. Markland. The vote was six in favor AM, LT, RD, JM, KA, ED, none opposed, and one abstention (RM).

A. Return to Item A

Parks and Recreation/Buildings and Grounds - Kellie Troendle

Parks and Recreation 4520

K. Troendle stated we stayed under the 1.8%. We made changes to the budget as we needed more staff help. We looked for funds within the budget to cover the position.

The Committee asked questions and discussed several line items.

Building Grounds and Maintenance 4194

K. Troendle stated we are under budget but a staff member was removed and placed under the Cemetery budget. It is probably level funded without the staff person. There are some line items that went up, like fuel and electricity.

The Committee asked questions and discussed several line items.

R. Bailey discussed the Cemetery staffing.

Time permitted for the review of additional budgets.

Public TV/Peg 4199 – R. Bailey

R. Bailey provided the Committee with an overview and stated we are in the process of negotiations as a group with Metrocast for a new franchise agreement. The town is experimenting with placing the meetings on the website and we are trying to develop a long term plan.

There was a discussion on the amount in the line item.

Emergency Management 4290 – R. Bailey

R. Bailey provided the Committee with an overview of Emergency Management for the Town. The Town Hall would be the Emergency Operating Center. The high school is the primary shelter and we are currently setting up the Senior Center as a backup.

There was a discussion on the specifics of the Town Emergency Management.

VII. Public Input II

None

Public Input II closed

VIII. Old Business

A. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

R. Messier stated the member of Committee is Robert Daniels and is listed in the minutes as B. Daniels (BD) and should read (RD). L. Tilly stated the correct spelling of his name is Tilly, not Tilley. K. Argiropolis would like to see Section Headers to match the Agenda.

K. Argiropolis made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of October 9, 2013 as amended and was seconded by R. Messier. The vote was five in favor, AM, LT, RD, RM and KA, with none opposed and 2 abstentions (JM and ED)

J. Markland suggested adding Any Further Business to the Agenda going forward and placing it above Adjourned for the purpose of allowing members to bring something up that they were thinking about during the meeting and to decide if they want to discuss it before the meeting closes. It could also be something that they want to talk about during the meeting but it may not be on the agenda and don't feel it is appropriate to bring it up.

R. Messier made a motion to change the Agenda and add Item IX being Other Business and Item X being Adjournment and was seconded by John Markland. The vote was six in favor AM, LT, RD, RM, JM, and ED, one opposed (KA) and no abstentions.

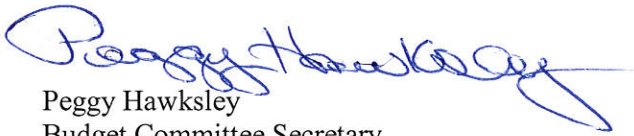
There was a discussion by the Committee on the pros and cons of this suggestion.

IX. Adjournment

R. Messier made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by A. McLeod and passed with all in favor.

Adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peggy Hawksley", is written over the typed name and title.

Peggy Hawksley
Budget Committee Secretary

Approved October 29, 2013