

Town of Alton

Budget Committee Meeting
Minutes

APPROVED

October 26, 2006

Present: Stephen Miller; William Curtin; Elizabeth Dominick; Virgil MacDonald; Laurie Boyce; Steven McMahon (Alton Selectmen Rep.); Terri Noyes (ACS Board Rep.); E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator; Krista Argiropolis (Secretary)

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.

II. Opening Comments by Chair

Mr. Miller spoke about how the review of the Town Departments' budgets would be conducted. The department manager or official will give an opening statement, followed by a line item review of the proposed budget, and the Committee will be allowed to ask questions of the department manager. After the departments have reviewed their proposed budget, and towards to close of the meeting, there will be a vote taken on the proposed budget, by the Committee. Mr. Miller asked if there were any questions. There were none.

III. Water Department – Richard Quindley

Mr. Quindly presented the proposed budget for the Water Department for FY 2007. He stated that the FY 2006 budget should come in at about \$35,000 over expenditures. He reviewed each line item of the proposed budget individually.

There was a brief discussion about the Merit Pay (1-4431-030, \$2,670), which Mr. Quindly explained was based on evaluation and performance. This is paid out in December each year.

Mr. Miller asked what the Vehicle Expense (1-4331-207, \$2,000) was used for. Mr. Quindley responded that it was for the expenses of two excavators and a trailer.

There was a discussion about Vehicle Fuel (1-4331-214, \$3,000). Mr. Bailey stated that there was no bid for fuel; this was just an estimated amount.

The Committee discussed Electricity (1-4331-303, \$24,000). Mr. Bailey stated that a 25% increase had been factored into the proposed budget, based on area increases that are incurred from the NH Co-Op Electric Company.

Mr. Bailey reported that Building Fuel/Propane (1-4331-304, \$1,650) was at a very good rate because it was the third year of a locked in on a variable plus account.

Mr. Miller asked about the Excavator Lease Payment (1-4331-901, \$10,477) and the terms. Mr. Quindly responded that this was a lease to own contract.

IV. Solid Waste – Scott Simonds

Mr. Miller commended Mr. Simonds on his detailed proposed budget and thanked him for the thorough work.

Mr. Simonds stated that there were not many changes to the budget, other than the tonnage. He reviewed the proposed budget for Solid Waste Operations (4324) for FY 2007.

It was noted that Benefit Buy-Out (4324-029, \$1,800) was recommended by the Selectmen, to be reduced to \$1,000.

Mr. Simonds noted that in the Part Time Staff (1-4324-016, \$15,055) account he was requesting a swap shop attendant, per diem, for safety and service issues. The Committee discussed the amount of traffic around the swap shop area and the location of the shop.

Mr. Bailed noted that in the Electricity (1-4324-303, \$4,200) account, the amount requested did not reflect the recent increase in electricity in the area.

V. Budget Committee – Steve Miller

Mr. Miller presented the proposed budget for the Budget Committee for FY 2007.

Mr. Miller motioned to reduce the Telephone account (1-4131-175; \$25) to \$1, and Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed. (SM, WC, ED, VM, LB, SMc, TN)

Mr. Miller motioned to reduce the Advertising account (1-4131-183; \$360) to \$150, and Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed. (SM, WC, ED, VM, LB, SMc, TN)

There was a discussion about the Contracted Services (1-4131-184; \$1,000). Mr. Miller and the Committee commended Ms. Argiropolis for her services. Mr. Curtin motioned to increase the Contracted Services account (1-4131-184; \$1,000) to \$1,030, factoring the hourly rate for services at \$15.50. The motion unanimously passed. (SM, WC, ED, VM, LB, SMc, TN)

VI. General Government – E. Russell Bailey

Mr. Bailey presented the proposed budget for the General Government for FY 2007. He reviewed the line items and amounts with the Committee. It was noted that the executive secretary would be retiring in the Fall 2007.

There was a discussion about Records Management (1-4130-137, \$3,000). Mr. Bailey explained that this was an achieve management system that would be implemented.

VII. Street Lighting – E. Russell Bailey

Mr. Bailey reviewed the proposed budget for Street Lighting for FY 2007. There was a discussion about the recent increase in electricity rates and how that would effect the budget. Mr. Bailey stated that he would present information about the newly increased rates for all departments.

VIII. Welfare – E. Russell Bailey

Mr. Bailey reviewed the proposed budget for Welfare for FY 2007. He stated that Alton has a unique situation because of the Heike Caregivers program, which enables elderly residents to stay in their homes

longer, as opposed to being placed in a nursing home. He reviewed the proposed budget by each line item. All areas were felt to be covered.

IX. Patriotic Purposes – E. Russell Bailey

Mr. Bailey presented the proposed budget for Patriotic Purposes for FY 2007. He noted that there was an increase in Fireworks, due to locating the send-off platform onto a barge in Alton Bay. He stated that there had been a lot of positive feedback about the firework show.

X. Volunteers for PMHS Budget

Mr. Miller asked for three volunteers from the Budget Committee for the upcoming PMHS Budget work sessions. Mrs. Boyce, Mr. Miller, and Mr. MacDonald volunteered. Mr. Curtin offered to be an alternate.

XI. Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2006

Mrs. Boyce motioned to accept the Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2006, as written and Mr. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed. (SM, WC, ED, VM, LB, SMc, TN)

XII. Budget Committee's Vote on Proposed Budgets Presented

General Government (4130):

Mr. Miller motioned to reduce the Contract Services account (1-4130-184; \$2,500) to \$1,000 and Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion failed. (yes - SM, ED, LB / no – SMc, WC, VM, TN)

Mr. Miller motioned to reduce the Selectman Contingency account (1-4130-899; \$15,000) to \$5,000. There was no second the motion. The motion was dropped.

Mr. Curtin motioned to accept the proposed budget for General Government (4130), at \$299,014, as presented and Mr. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed. (SM, WC, ED, VM, LB, SMc, TN)

Budget Committee (4131):

Mrs. Boyce motioned to accept the amended proposed budget for the Budget Committee (4131) at \$1,457 and Ms. Dominick seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed. (SM, WC, ED, VM, LB, SMc, TN)

Solid Waste Department (4324):

Mr. Miller motioned to accept the Selectmen's recommendation for line item 4324-029; Benefit Buy Out \$1,000. Mr. McMahon seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed. (SM, WC, ED, VM, LB, SMc, TN)

Mr. MacDonald motioned to accept the proposed budget of the Solid Waste Department (4324) at \$453,152. Mr. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed. (SM, WC, ED, VM, LB, SMc, TN)

Water Department (4331):

Mr. Miller motioned to decrease the Water Commissioner's Pay (1-4331-001, \$4,636) by \$200, for a new projected budgeted amount of \$4,436. Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of six, with one abstaining. (SM, ED, VM, LB, SMc, TN / abstaining - WC)

Mr. Curtin motioned to increase the Main Expense (1-4331-601, \$5,000) by \$2,800, for a new total of \$7,800 and Mr. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of six. (SM, WC, ED, VM, LB, TN / no - SMc)

Mr. MacDonald motioned to accept the amended proposed budget of the Water Department (4331) at \$293,776. Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of six. (SM, WC, ED, VM, LB, TN / no - SMc)

Street Lighting (4316):

Mrs. Boyce motioned to accept the proposed budget for Street Lighting (4316) at \$27,000, as presented, and Ms. Noyes seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of six to one. (SM, WC, ED, LB, SMc, TN / no - VM)

Welfare (4442):

Mrs. Boyce motioned to accept the proposed budget for Welfare (4442), at \$66,312, as presented, and Mr. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed. (SM, WC, ED, VM, LB, SMc, TN)

Patriotic Purposes (4583):

Mr. Curtin motioned to accept the proposed budget for Patriotic Purposes (4583), at \$24,000, as presented, and Mr. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed. (SM, WC, ED, VM, LB, SMc, TN)

XIII. Public Input

There was no members of the public present.

XIV. Adjournment

Mr. Miller thanked the members of the Committee for attending and for all the members being present at the session. He stated there are seven members; five are elected, one is a representative of the school board and one is a representative of the selectmen. He stated that if they are a member of the committee in the future that he would expect them to be in more frequent attendance of the meetings.

[Per request of Mr. Miller, Chair, at the 10/31/06 meeting, this recorder was asked to include, verbatim, a comment made by Ms. Noyce following his statement above. Mr. Miller stated, "I, as the chairman, would appreciate it if going forward, next year, if you're a member of the committee if you can be here." Ms. Noyce can be heard responding by saying, "I won't be here."]

The next Budget Committee Meeting will be held on October 31, 2006 at 6pm.

Mr. Bailey stated the Library had asked to attend on either 11/2/06 or 11/9/06, and asked if he could switch a couple of the smaller departments with the Library. Mr. Miller confirmed that was acceptable.

Mrs. Boyce motioned to adjourn and Ms. Dominick seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed. (SM, WC, ED, VM, LB, SMc, TN) The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Krista A. Argiropolis
Keeper and Transcriber of Minutes