

Town of Alton
Budget Committee Meeting
October 29, 2013
Minutes
Approved November 6, 2013

I. Call to Order pm 6:30pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

L. Carr, Selectmen's Representative
Andy McLeod, Chairman
Ruth Messier, Member
Steve Miller, School Board Representative
John Markland, Member
Lawrence Tilly, Vice Chairman
Elizabeth Dominick, Member

Other Attendees:

E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator
Tom Sargent, Town Assessor
John Dever, Code Enforcement
Ryan Heath, Chief of Police

IV. Approval of Agenda

R. Messier made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. It was seconded by J. Markland and passed with all in favor.

V. Public Input

None
Public Input I closed

VI. New Business

A. New BOS representative welcome

L. Carr will represent the Board of Selectmen until further notice.

B. Review of Assessing, Code Enforcement, Police, and Animal Control budgets.

Assessing 4193 – Tom Sargent, Town Assessor

T. Sargent stated if you take out the non-employee salaries the rest of the budget increased around 1.4 – 1.5% from last year. A number of the line items have gone down from the previous year.

The Committee asked questions and discussed various line items.

Code Enforcement – John Dever

S. Miller stated that he is a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and works closely with J. Dever and feels that he can make an impartial decision on any discussion. He does not feel the need to recuse himself unless the Committee feels otherwise. There were no objections from the Committee.

The only increase in the budget is in salary. Both J. Dever and his secretary are due for a step raise. Money was shuffled out of one account into two others to bring those up. The boat expenses to go to the island to do inspections were reduced from \$500.00 to \$300.00.

The Committee asked questions and discussed various line items.

Police Department – Ryan Heath, Police Chief

R. Messier inquired as to why the Police Department does not use the same forms as the other Town Departments. R. Heath responded that the Police Department forms are computer generated.

R. Heath stated overall the major changes are focused on the vehicles and the proposal of a municipal fleet leasing purchase. That proposal altered several lines in the budget. The big issue the Police Department is tackling right now is the fleet. It is aging much quicker than the vehicles can be replenished. He stated we can't continue with the repairs and our maintenance line is out of control. He provided an overview of the extent of the repairs required. R. Heath distributed to the Committee a handout with updated line item amounts and a spread sheet with the cruiser mileage. He also provided the Committee with information on a vehicle lease program available exclusively for municipalities which generated a lengthy discussion.

The Committee asked questions and discussed various line items.

Animal Control 4414 – Ryan Heath, Police Chief

R. Heath stated that the budget has gone down this year.

The Committee asked questions and discussed various line items.

VII. Public Input II

None

Public Input II closed

VIII. Old Business

A. Review and approve meeting minutes

R. Messier made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 24, 2013 as presented. The motion was seconded by E. Dominick and passed with five in favor RM, JM, LT, AM, ED, none against and two abstentions (LC, SM).

IX. Other Business

L. Tilly stated he is very happy with the electronic information that we have been receiving. It gives us an opportunity for us to look at it in advance.

X. Adjourn

R. Messier made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by L. Tilly and was passed with all in favor.

Adjournment 9:25pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy Hawksley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Peggy Hawksley
Budget Committee Secretary

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