

Town of Alton
Budget Committee Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
November 4, 2015
Minutes
Approved November 17, 2015

I. Call to Order 6:30pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Andy McLeod, Chairman
Roger Nelson, Vice Chairman
David Hershey, Member
Lou LaCourse, Selectmen's Representative
Steve Miller, School Board Representative
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator
Terence O'Rourke, Member, Excused Absence

IV. Approval of Agenda

R. Nelson motioned to approve the agenda as presented and was seconded by L. LaCourse with all in favor.

V. Public Input I

Alton Resident Ruth Messier stated the Selectmen have a moment of Silence after the Pledge of Allegiance and believes that all the committees should do the same.

L. LaCourse motioned to allow for a moment of silence after the Pledge of Allegiance and was seconded by A. McLeod with all in favor.

Public Input I closed

V. New Business

Library – 4550

Library Director Holly Brown provided the committee with a summary of the proposed 2016 budget and stated they are requesting the addition of a line item for Career Development. The addition of the line item will increase the 2016 budget to \$7,036.00 over the 2015 budget. Holly Brown provided the Committee with an overview of the request and informed the Committee that the additional line item would be used for on-line courses for her to obtain her master's degree in Library Science. Members of the Library Trustees were in attendance and spoke in support of the additional line item. The Committee reviewed the budget, asked questions and discussed various line items.

Cemetery – 4195

Bonnie Burgess and Germaine Glidden informed the Committee that they are looking at Cemetery road repair for 2016. Two new roofs and a new floor had to be installed in 2015. The Cemetery trustees have put in a recommendation to the Selectmen to eliminate the Cemetery Trustees and place the department under the direction of the Town. E.

Russell Bailey stated that this would not require the hiring of additional staff and a warrant article will be presented.

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The Committee reviewed the budget, asked questions and discussed the budget.

Town Clerk / Tax Collector – 4132 and 4133

Lisa Noyes provided the Committee with an overview noting that there is an increase in the salary line. E. Russell Bailey stated the Board of Selectmen is reviewing a salary study that was conducted and the amount shown may not be the final amount. The Committee reviewed the budget, asked questions and discussed various line items.

Elections - 4140

Lisa Noyes stated that the Elections budget is pretty straight forward. The Committee reviewed the budget, asked questions and discussed various line items.

Highway - 4312

Ken Roberts provided the Committee with background on some future projects and capital improvements. The overall budget has gone down and there is a request for a payroll increase. There was a discussion on the non use of engineers for road construction. The Committee reviewed the budget, asked questions and discussed various line items.

Solid Waste – 4324

Scott Simonds provided the Committee with an overview and stated that there were no big changes. For 2015 Solid Waste has made \$57,966.00 in recycling revenues. He provided information on the two proposed warrant articles. The Committee reviewed, the budget asked questions and discussed various line items.

VII. Public Input II

Alton resident John Markland addressed the Committee and inquired about the salary accounts for elected officials in various departments, including stipends. S. Miller responded that it is not listed by function. E. Russell Bailey stated there is a line item that shows what all the elected officials receive. John Markland asked if the Board of Selectmen has the authority to deny the stipends. E. Russell Bailey stated not for the Water Department but for the others they could. He also asked if the Board of Selectmen has the right to deny an elected officials salary that has been voted and approved by the town's people. A. McLeod responded that we would probably need to get legal counsel regarding this.

There was a discussion on stipends received by elected officials.

Public Input II closed

VIII. Old Business

Meeting Minute Review

The meeting minutes of October 22, 2015 will be held until Terrence O'Rourke is in attendance.

A. McLeod confirmed that the third date for review of the school budget will be held on December 2nd and not on December 9th. The School Budget review will be held on November 10th, November 17th and December 2nd. S. Miller stated that November 11th is a holiday and that school staff leaves early on November 10th for the start of the long weekend. S. Miller will check to see what the availability of the staff will be.

A. McLeod stated he spoke with Mr. Landry of the JMA and they do not have the numbers available for PMHS. S. Miller informed the Committee that the budget was approved on November 3rd. He also informed the Committee that a School Board representative will not be available for the November 5th Budget Committee meeting.

X. Adjourn

R. Nelson motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by L. LaCourse with all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Peggy Hawksley
Budget Committee Secretary