

TOWN OF ALTON
ALTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
APPROVED 11/19/09
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 5, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Painter, Chair
Greg Fuller, Vice Char
Steve Miller
Richard MacDonald
Marc DeCoff
Loring Carr, Selectmen's Representative
Sandy Wyatt, School Board Representative

OTHERS PRESENT: Russ Bailey, Town Administrator
Kathy Holt, Superintendent
Members of the Public

I. CALL TO ORDER

K. Painter called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

All members were present.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

V. AGENDA

K. Painter added "Superintendent's Report" to the agenda. R. MacDonald added "Cemetery" to the agenda. G. Fuller motioned to approve the agenda as amended and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (KP, GF, SM, RM, MD, SW, LC)

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Kathy Holt, Superintendent, SAU #72, spoke about the Title I Grant, which comes in two different amounts: \$1,417.59 and \$72,417.59. Title I is for students needing special help in reading and the grant money cannot be used to offset the budget but is supplemental money. The money can only be used to hire people to work students or for materials. G. Fuller asked that if he was not on the Board, that the Committee remember to ask _____ [unable to hear rest of comment] _____. She spoke about the AARA grant. She spoke about the IDEA grant, for individuals with disabilities and reported that staff is not hired with

the money received from that grant but the money was used to equip a classroom. There is early intervention for students who are “at risk” but do not yet have an IEP. She reported on the para-educators that have been hired and noted they are all part-time employees. She spoke about additional funding that Technology is applying for that would supply an additional \$150,000. She discussed some of the other mini-grants that have been received. She gave the Committee information about the Fund 5 account that was set up at the high school and the budget books for SAU #72 budget FY 2010-2011. S. Miller asked how much was anticipated for grant funds for 2009-2010 and K. Holt responded \$_____ [unable to hear] and that they would have to look at this year’s budget.

K. Painter requested to move the remainder of the Old Business items to the end of the meeting, due to the time and the Committee agreed by consensus.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

TAX COLLECTOR 4133

Anne Kroger, Tax Collector, presented the proposed budget. She reported that there was about a 94% compliance with property owners paying their taxes and felt this year would also be a good year. She discussed some of the various ways she works with property owners so they can pay on their tax bill. The Committee reviewed the proposed budget on a line-by-line basis.

S. Miller motioned to accept the Selectmen’s recommendation for the Tax Collector’s Budget (4133) at \$65,397.00 and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (KP, GF, SM, RM, MD, SW, LC)

LIBRARY 4550

Holly Brown, Librarian, presented the proposed budget for the Gilman Library. She reported there was no anticipation at this time of any personnel changes. She reported on various sources of revenue, such as the “conscience jar” (for late fees), old books sales, lost card fund, out-of-town-membership fund, and other accounts. She stated there is no way to anticipate the income from these sources and noted that it may decrease due to the economy. She reported that there is an increase in circulation and felt it was partly due to the economy. There was discussion about the procurement of books.

The Committee reviewed the budget on a line-by-line basis. There was discussion of personnel, utilities, postage, mileage, and computers.

PARKS & REC – GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE (4194)

Kellie Troendell, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, presented the proposed budget. The Committee reviewed a handout that K. Troendell submitted with the department’s mission statement, objectives, and information about revolving expenses. There was discussion about the salary line items, utilities, milfoil treatment, and security issues at the parks.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (4520)

The Committee reviewed the budget on a line-by-line basis. There was discussion of salaries and it was noted that K. Troendell was at the top step. R. Bailey noted there were three or four town employees that were now at the top step and this is something that would need to be addressed. The Committee discussed the concerts the Bay and the payment of bands, part-time salaries and overtime, and building maintenance.

There was a brief break.

It was decided that due to the time, that General Government would be presented on November 11.

COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATIONS:

TAX COLLECTOR (4133)

[See decision made under the review of the budget, page 2.]

PARKS & REC – GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE (4194)

S. Miller motioned to accept the Selectmen's recommendation for Building & Grounds at \$201,613 and L. Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (KP, GF, SM, RM, MD, SW, LC)

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (4520)

There was discussion of the Benefit Buyout, and COLAs. R. MacDonald asked why mileage was cut for many of the other departments' budget but that it was not cut in Park & Rec's budget. R. Bailey stated it was because they used their own vehicles, as the old police car was no longer in service.

S. Miller motioned to reduce the budget line for 015 (Part-time wages, Life Guard) from \$11,342.00 to \$8,342.00 and the motion was seconded by R. MacDonald. The motion passed by a vote of six with one no vote. (KP, GF, SM, RM, MD, SW / No – LC)

S. Miller motioned to approve \$77,847 for Parks & Recs, and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion failed with six no votes and one yes vote. (Yes – MD / No - KP, GF, SM, RM, SW LC)

R. MacDonald motioned to add \$3,000 to line 351 (Concerts). There was no second.

K. Painter motioned reconsider budget line 015 (Part-time wages, Life Guard) and G. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed with four yes votes and three no votes. (Yes – KP, SW, GF, LC / No - MD, RM, SM)

K. Painter motioned to add \$3,000 to budget line item 015 (Part-time wages, Life Guard), to return it to \$11,342.00 and L. Carr seconded the motion. There was discussion about the justification for the request and money spent this year-to-date. (Yes - KP, RM, SW, LC / No – GF, SM, MD)

S. Miller motioned to adjust budget line item 015 to \$9,490 (Part-time wages, Life-Guard) and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of four yes and three no votes. (Yes - GF, SM, RM, MD / No – LC, SW, KP)

G. Fuller motioned to approve \$78,995 for Parks & Rec budget and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of five yes and two no votes. (GF, SM, RM, MD, SW / No – LC, KP)

GILMAN LIBRARY

M. DeCoff motioned to accept the Selectmen's recommended amount at \$120,492 and L. Carr seconded the motion. There was discussion of the part-time wages and materials (books) budget line items. S. Miller motioned to reduce budget line item 016 (Part-time Substitute) to \$1 and then withdrew the motion. The original motion passed by a vote of four with three no votes. (RM, MD, SW, LC / No – GF, SM, KP)

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

MEETING MINUTES

L. Carr motioned to accept the meeting minutes of October 22, 2009 as presented and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of three with four abstaining. (RM, MD, SW, KP / Abstain – GF, SM, SW, LC)

SELECTMEN'S COLA

S. Miller spoke about his concerns about the written response from the town's attorney, Jim Sessler, concerning the COLAs approved by the Selectmen and the town's Conflict of Interest Policy. He requested the Committee request a written legal opinion from the Local Government Center and decided to make it a motion. R. MacDonald seconded the motion. K. Painter stated that it was request of the Committee to get an opinion from the town's attorney and the LGC to see if the Selectmen had the legal right to transfer money from one line item to another and it was confirmed that it was legal. The LGC could not speak to the Conflict of Interest Policy issue. She noted that L. Carr had obtained the legal opinion they had requested. She felt they had fulfilled their responsibility for getting an opinion from the LGC. R. Bailey noted that the LGC would not provide a written legal opinion on this issue. The motion failed with one yes vote, six no votes, and one abstention. (Yes – SM / No - RM, MD, KP, GF, SW, LC / Abstain - SW)

CEMETERY

This agenda item, added by request of R. MacDonald, was tabled for the next meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

M. DeCoff motioned to adjourn and S. Wyatt seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (RM, MD, SW, KP, GF, SM, SW, LC)

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Argiropolis
Recorder