

Town of Alton
Budget Committee Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
November 5, 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
R. Virgil MacDonald, Board of Selectmen's Representative
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator
Terence O'Rourke, Member, Arrived at 6:45pm

IV. Approval of Agenda

There was a discussion on the Budget Committee meeting schedule and the following adjustment to the schedule was agreed upon:

The meeting scheduled for November 10th has been cancelled.

November 17th, November 18th and December 2nd - School Board Budget meetings.

December 9th - Town warrant articles and any remaining Town departments.

December 10th - School Warrant Articles

December 15th - Remaining School Warrant Articles and voting on the town budget (originally scheduled for December 16th but changed later in the meeting to accommodate David Hershey's schedule.)

There was a discussion on when the voting would take place.

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

V. Public Input I

None

Public Input I closed

V. New Business

Planning Department - 4191

Ken McWilliams stated there is a \$4,000.00 decrease in this year's budget compared to last years.

The Committee reviewed the budget, asked questions and discussed various line items.

Assessing Department - 4193

Tom Sargent stated that his full time person went from full time to part time and he is requesting an additional part time person. There was a discussion on appraisals.

The Committee reviewed the budget, asked questions and discussed various line items.

Police Department – 4210

Police Chief Ryan Heath provided the Committee with a summary and stated that the increases in this year's budget are due to payroll increases. They are trying to maintain the quality of the services and the coverage they currently have. There was general discussion on various items including the savings the vehicle lease program has provided and the revenue generated for private duty performed for traffic control during construction projects. There was also a discussion about a request for a live scan fingerprint machine which was denied by the Board of Selectmen.

The Committee reviewed the budget, asked questions and discussed various line items.

Animal Control -4414

Chief Heath stated the budget for Animal Control is level funded.

The Committee reviewed the budget, asked questions and discussed various line items.

Break taken at 7:42 pm

Reconvened at 7:48 pm

Fire Department – 4220

Fire Chief Ryan Ridley informed the Committee that a lot of areas need to be addressed. He attempted to keep the budget level funded and informed the committee that many of the maintenance requirements had previously not been completed. There are budget increases for maintenance and protective clothing.

The Committee reviewed the budget, asked questions and discussed various line items.

Ambulance

Fire Chief Ryan Ridley provided the Committee with information regarding the town ambulance operations and the receipt of payments for the service. There was a discussion on the salary line item.

The Committee reviewed the budget, asked questions and discussed various line items.

VII. **Public Input II**

Alton resident John Markland spoke to the Committee stating the County Jail has a live digital fingerprinting scan machine. The County Jail is where a prisoner would be brought if they are not cooperating in giving their name. There is a temporary holding facility in Town but they would be transported to the county jail and fingerprinted there. If someone is giving you a hard time and not giving you their identification you would generally hold them overnight and bring them to court the following day so the person can answer to the court as to why they are not producing valid information. The County has a live scan machine at the jail and they can use the machine there. It was put there so that the entire county can use the machine because that is where all of the prisoners go. Mr. Markland also commented about the fuel costs for the Police Department and the comment that the new cruisers were more economical on gas and a question was brought up earlier about the gas prices being so high. A. McLeod responded that we are concerned about buying gas from the state pumps when local pumps are cheaper. The Town has ordered credit cards to be used at the local gas stations.

There was a discussion regarding gas prices.

Public Input II closed

VIII. Old Business

R. Nelson motioned to accept the meeting minutes of October 22, 2015 as presented and was seconded by T. O'Rourke with a vote of 4-0-1 with D. Hershey abstaining.

There was additional discussion regarding the Budget Committee meeting schedule:

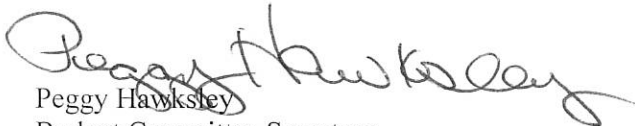
The meeting scheduled for November 10th has been cancelled.
The School Board Budget meetings will be held on November 17th, 18th and December 2nd.
A Town warrant meeting date will be scheduled for December 9th
The meeting originally scheduled for December 16th has been changed to December 15th.

X. Adjourn

A. McLeod motioned to adjourn and was seconded by R. V. MacDonald with all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32pm

Respectfully submitted,



Peggy Hawksley
Budget Committee Secretary
Approved November 17, 2015