

Town of Alton
Budget Committee Minutes
November 8, 2011
Approved November 17, 2011

1. Call to Order – 6:00 pm
2. Roll Call
M. DeCoff, Chair
S. Miller, Vice Chair
L. Carr, Selectmen’s Representative
V. MacDonald, Member
B. Howard, Member
L. Tilly, Member (Arrived 6:30pm)

Other Attendees

R. Bailey, Town Administrator
K. Troendle, Director Parks and Recreation
R. Heath, Chief of Police

3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by V. MacDonald to approve to accept November 1, 2011 minutes.

Motion by M. DeCoff to accept Minutes of November 1, 2011 with the following amendments, Page 7, 2rd and 3rd paragraphs change “tails” to “sales”. Page 2, change “skewered” to “skewed”.

S. Miller seconds, all in favor

Motion by B. Howard to accept minutes of November 3, 2011, M. DeCoff seconds, S. Miller and L. Carr approve, V. MacDonald Abstains.

5. Approval of Agenda

**Motion by S. Miller to approve agenda, V. MacDonald seconds
All in favor**

S. Miller requested a review of the Charities budget be added. R. Bailey stated with the stipulation that the BOS has not reviewed or made any recommendations.

General discussion regarding charitable contributions and how contributions are set up.

S. Miller noted that what we have done in the past is that we act on each individual request. What we haven’t done in the past, and S. Miller puts this up for discussion, it appears the Selectmen and/or the Budget Committee would be well served to pick a number they felt was appropriate and set it aside for charitable contributions.

S. Miller continued, hypothetically if the number was 50,000 then knowing that you can make decisions on which ones might have to be cut. On the other hand if the recommendation from either the Selectmen or the Budget Committee was 60,000, hypothetically, that would make it a lot easier to make the decision on each individual charity as well.

S. Miller believes that we are going about this the wrong way. The Selectmen should determine an amount appropriate for charitable giving just like they have an appropriate amount for Welfare. There is no difference between Welfare and Charitable giving and believes there is a more prudent way in terms of budgeting in tight economic times.

Discussion on how the values would be determined. S. Miller would prefer to see Selectmen come up with a number or the Budget Committee could do it. Although the Selectmen should do it since they are doing the entire town budget.

B. Howard noted that some of the charities get funding from numerous other sources, and some of it is redundant of other services that we already provide within the town. As times get more and more difficult financially, would personally like to see more money set aside for town welfare than some of these that are all encompassing for the region.

R. Bailey noted that the Selectmen set the warrant article; the Budget Committee recommends or not recommends them and you can vote to change the amount you have to act of off what is set.

S. Miller believes that as part of the budget it should be no different than Welfare and a specific dollar amount allocated to charity and that a lot of towns do that. They decide how much should be set aside for charitable contributions, everybody makes their request and then the Selectmen make a recommendation and the Budget Committee makes their recommendation as well.

The budget is 52000, S. Miller would like to see the Selectmen decide what an appropriate amount is and make their changes. The Town should have X amount for Welfare, X amount for the Police Dept and X amount for charitable contributions. Should decide amount before seeing the request on what is available for the charities and to make sure that the amount that is available is enough to cover their request before you recommend it.

L. Carr noted years ago it was done as a lump sum and it was changed. Discussion on who should decide on who is going to be cut. L. Carr stated that the Budget Committee makes the cuts when they go through the warrant article. Pick a number that the town can afford and then apportion it to the people who make the request.

V. MacDonald felt that this should be done at the deliberative session, from the people if they want to cut one or add one.

L. Carr can take back to the Selectmen S. Miller's comments and they can discuss each one individually.

6. Old Business
None
7. New Business
Parks & Recreation/Building & Ground, Police,

Buildings and Grounds - 4194

Budget items reviewed line by line

021 – Overtime Wages

**Motion by S. Miller to reduce line to 10,486.
B. Howard seconds**

Discussion: No Discussion

**Vote: M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, V. MacDonald Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr No
Motion passed 4 - 1**

339 – PRCC Building Expense

**Motion by S. Miller to reduce line by 470. For the last 3 years it has appeared in the budget and has not been used.
No Second**

399 - Dock Expense

Requested 5,000, selectmen reduced to 4,000. YTD spent only 600. Bills come in February for previous year. Currently owe approximately 2000. Repairs made to the swim dock. Unable to predict boating accidents and must pay for repairs to the docks.

**Motion by S. Miller to reduce line by 1000 to 3000 based on only 637 dollars spent so far. No guarantee what types of repairs is going to be needed.
B. Howard seconds**

Discussion: No discussion

**Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, V. MacDonald Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr No
Motion Passed 5 - 1**

449 – Turf/Grounds

**Motion by S. Miller to reduce to 1500.
B. Howard Seconds**

Discussion: No Discussion

Vote: L. Tilly No, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, V. MacDonald No, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr No

Motion Failed

699 – Liberty Tree Park Improve
Budget request 2,280, spent so far 280

Motion made by S. Miller to reduce line to 1500 because only 207 spent so far this year and there is no indication that it will be spent.

B. Howard seconds

Discussion: This has been put in budget for the last couple of years.

Vote: L. Tilly Yes M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, V. MacDonald Yes B. Howard Yes, L. Carr No

Motion passed 5-1

759 - Railroad Square Park

Motion by S. Miller to reduce item to 2000

B. Howard seconds

Discussion: No Discussion

Vote: L. Tilly No, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, V. MacDonald No, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr No

Motion Failed

799 - Bridge Lights

Motion by S. Miller to reduce line to 400

B. Howard seconds

Discussion: No Discussion

L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, V. MacDonald Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr No

Motion Passed 5-1

899 – B&M Railroad Electric

**Motion by S. Miller to reduce line to 400
B. Howard Seconds**

Discussion: Current is 259. The most that will be spent is 260.

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, V. MacDonald Yes, L. Carr No

Motion Passed 5 - 1

Buildings and Grounds Complete

Parks and Recreation - 4520

Budget items will be reviewed line by line

015 – Lifeguard

**Motion by S. Miller to reduce line item to 9500.00 because we have not been able to hire enough hours to meet budget of 11,000
V. MacDonald seconds**

Discussion: No Discussion

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, V. MacDonald Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr No

Motion Passed 5 – 1

110 – Meetings/Conf

Motion by S. Miller to reduce line item to 300.

K. Troendle noted that there is a conference that she attends that is 400.00; it is a 3-day conference.

Conference was not noted on the budget.

B. Howard Seconds

Discussion: YTD is 80. Needs 20 credits every 2 years. Credits do not have to be made up until the end of 2012. Registration for conference came in and was paid out of next year's budget as the conference is in January. K. Troendle stated she was instructed to take it out of next years budget and that is why it is not reflected in the budget.

If the statement was received and paid in November and the conference is not until January, money for conferences should come out of current year budget.

Continued discussion on how much will be required for conferences in next year.

S. Miller makes new motion to reduce to 500.00

B. Howard Seconds

Discussion: No additional discussion.

Vote: L. Tilley Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, V. MacDonald No, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr No

Motion Passed 4 - 2

Parks and Recreation Complete

Animal Control -4414

Budget items reviewed line by line

009 – Salary

8,067 YTD, budgeted 11,295

All part time officers handle animal control.

Motion by S. Miller to reduce line to 10,000

B. Howard Seconds

Discussion: Has the training been completed for the year? Training is required every year. State requires mandatory training. Need to look at hourly rate changes, it changed between on call rate to part timers rate. The hours are based on average call volume.

Vote: L. Tilly No, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, V. MacDonald No, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr No

Motion Failed

Animal Control complete

Police Department - 4210

Budget Items reviewed line by line

207 Vehicle Maintenance.

Motion by S. Miller to reduce line to 17,000 based on how much has been spend YTD.

B. Howard seconds

Discussion: Based on past practices. Currently have 8 cars, 5 SUVs and 3 Crown Vics. All of the Crown Vics have high mileage. Budget YTD is 13,500. 17,000 request is based on what was done in the past

Vote: L. Tilly No, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr No, V. MacDonald No

Motion Failed

303 – Electricity

5700 YTD, budgeted 9700 only town agency that is open 24 hours a day

Motion by S. Miller to reduce to 7500, up until October, averaging a little over 500.00/month

B. Howard seconds

Discussion: Last year at this time it was 5400, big jump between Sept and Dec

Motion Withdrawn by S. Miller

Second Withdrawn by B. Howard

304 – Building Fuel

YTD 3942. Budget was reduced from 5520 to 3942 Planning on replacing furnace.

Motion by S. Miller to reduce line to 3942

M. DeCoff Seconds

Discussion: No Discussion

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, V. MacDonald Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr Yes

Motion Passed 6 - 0

309 – Building Expense

YTD 955.00, budgeted 5,167

Motion by S. Miller to reduce line item to 4500.

B. Howard Seconds

Discussion YTD 955, probability of everything on list being completed is low.

Vote: L. Tilly Yes, M. DeCoff Yes, S. Miller Yes, V. MacDonald Yes, B. Howard Yes, L. Carr No

Motion Passed 5 – 1

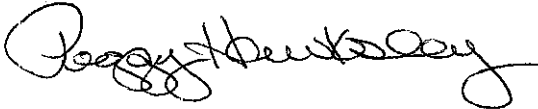
Police Department Complete

Other: Cemetery, R. Bailey will talk to them to about rescheduling.

8. Public Input
None see or heard
9. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn B. Howard, M. DeCoff seconds. All in favor
Adjournment 9:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Hawksley
Approved 11/17/2011

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peggy Hawksley".