

Town of Alton
Budget Committee Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
December 09, 2015
Minutes
Approved January 6, 2016

I. Call to Order 6:30pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

III. Roll Call

Andy McLeod, Chairman
Roger Nelson, Vice Chairman
Lou LaCourse, Selectmen's Representative
David Hershey, Member
Terence O'Rourke, Member
Steve Miller, School Board Representative
John Markland, Member, Excused Absence

Other Attendees:

E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

IV. Approval of Agenda

R. Nelson motioned to approve the Agenda as presented and was seconded by T. O'Rourke with all in favor.

V. Public Input I

None
Public Input I closed

V. New Business

A. Review of Town Warrant Articles

E. Russell Bailey provided the Committee with a worksheet. The Warrants are being finalized and he hopes that the numbers will remain the same but will not be sure until Zoning is complete. They currently have five Zoning Warrant articles proposed. He stated K. McWilliams believes it will remain at five. If it changes the remaining warrant articles will be re-numbered.

E. Russell Bailey asked the Committee for permission to review the Highway Warrant Articles first which includes Warrant Articles 24, 25 and 26.

Warrant Article 24 - Highway Equipment Capital Reserve.

The current balance in this fund is \$66,323.00. The Town is looking to buy a used street sweeper and Ken Roberts of the Highway Department, stated if the purchase is approved it will bring the balance down to \$26,000.00. K. Roberts stated that with the exception of State roads the Alton Highway Department sweeps all paved roads in Alton.

There was a discussion on the purchase of the street sweeper and the use of current town vehicles and equipment.

Warrant Article 25 – Highway Department Front End Loader Lease

K. Roberts provided the Committee with a breakdown of the lease information and provided information regarding the equipment and associated costs. The Committee reviewed, discussed and asked questions. It was noted that this lease contains an “escape clause” and R. Bailey provided an explanation of the clause to the Committee.

Warrant Article 26 – Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund

There was a discussion by the Committee including last year’s Warrant Article and the \$2,000,000.00 Bond. The Bond did not pass but was received better than anticipated. The Capital Reserve Warrant article has been increased to \$950,000.00.

5 minute break taken.
Meeting Resumed

Warrant Articles 1 – 6

The Committee reviewed, discussed and asked questions on the following proposed Town Warrant Articles (copy attached):

Warrant Article 7 – Is a non-money petition

Warrant Article 8

Warrant Article 9

S. Miller motioned to recommend to the BOS that they combine Warrant Articles 9 and 11 under one warrant article with an appropriate explanation.

R. Bailey responded that you cannot make them one article. Article 11 goes into the Capital Reserve and can be expended on any sidewalk in the town. Article 9 can only be expended for the Bay.

S. Miller rescinds his motion.

S. Miller motioned to recommend that the BOS that they eliminate Warrant Article No. 9 and take the amount requested in Article 9 and add that to Article 11 with an explanation on where they intend to put the money in the Article. So the people know the total amount they are expending on sidewalks. R. Nelson seconded the motion.

Discussion

Motion failed to pass with a vote of 1-5 with L. LaCourse, David Hershey, T. O'Rourke, A. McLeod and R. Nelson voting against.

D. Hershey motioned to modify line 2 of Article 9 to read in part "Upgrade of sidewalks in Alton Bay only." A. McLeod seconded the motion.

Discussion

R. Bailey will bring it back to the BOS for discussion.

S. Miller requested to make an amendment to D. Hershey's motion that Article 9 and Article 11 be next to each other and not be separated by any number of articles. Motion was seconded by D. Hershey.

A. McLeod stated he would like to keep the motions separate.

D. Hershey repeated his motion to modify line 2 of Article 9 to read in part "upgrade of sidewalks in Alton Bay Only." and was seconded by A. McLeod and passed with all in favor.

S. Miller revised his to motion to recommend to the BOS that both sidewalk articles be placed numerically in sequence next to each other and was seconded by T. O'Rourke and passed with all in favor.

Article 10

Article 11 –

Article 12 – Landfill Closure

Article 13 –

Article 14 – Building and Site Improvement Capital Reserve

Article 15 – Milfoil

Article 16 – Restroom Upgrades

Article 17 – Upgrade of Jones Field

Article 18 – Repair of Lake Wall

Article 19 – Cemetery Building Capital Reserve

Article 20 – Bottom line budget

Article 21 – Ambulance

Article 22 – Fire Station Capital Reserve

Article 23 – Fire Equipment Capital Reserve

Article 27 – Library Building Improvement

Article 28 – Article 39 – Human Service Warrant Articles

Article 40 – Petition Article

Article 41 –

There was a discussion on the next meeting. The meeting scheduled for December 16th has been changed to Monday, January 4, 2016 at 6:30pm in the Town Hall Meeting room.

5 Minute Break Taken
Meeting resumed

The Committee continued the review of General Government departments in the budget, asked questions and discussed various line items.

VII. Public Input II

None
Public Input II closed

VIII. Old Business

A. Meeting Minutes Review

R. Nelson motioned to approve the Budget Committee meeting minutes of November 17, 2015 as presented and was seconded by S. Miller with a vote of 5-0-1 with T. O'Rourke abstaining.

R. Nelson motioned to approve the Budget Committee meeting minutes of November 18, 2015 as presented and was seconded by T. O'Rourke with all in favor.

B. The review of the school financials will be placed on hold.

X. Adjourn

S. Miller motioned to adjourn and was seconded T. O'Rourke with all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

Respectfully submitted,



Peggy Hawksley
Budget Committee Secretary
Approved January 6, 2016