

TOWN OF ALTON
ALTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
APPROVED
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 15, 2009

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Terri Noyes, School Board Representative

OTHERS PRESENT: Members of the Public

I. CALL TO ORDER

K. Painter called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

IV. AGENDA

K. Painter requested to add the approval of the December 8, 2009 meeting minutes to the agenda. M. DeCoff motioned to approve the agenda as amended and S. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

V. MEETING MINUTES

There was discussion about a blank line in the minutes on Page 4, where S. Miller had made a motion. The amount was for \$3,000.00. S. Miller motioned to approve the meeting minutes of December 8, 2009 as amended and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote with one abstaining. (Abstain – GF)

VI. NEW BUSINESS

JMA BUDGET COMMITTEE – REP'S REPORT

S. Miller reported on the JMA Budget Committee's work. He reported on the new teacher's contract, which is a three year contract. He reported the teachers would go up a step each year with no cost of living increase the first year, an increase of 1% the second year, and an increase of 2% the third year. Teachers at the top step would receive either \$500 or \$1,000, depending on

where they were longevity-wise. He reported the contract was not recommended by the JMA Budget Committee by a vote of 2-5-1, noting that the two yes votes were from the two school board members, and the abstaining vote was his because he wanted to look more closely at the numbers.

There was review and discussion of the Warrant articles from Alton School District. R. MacDonald motioned to not recommend Warrant article I and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. L. Carr felt the Committee should wait until the school board voted on the articles. R. MacDonald withdrew his motion and M. DeCoff withdrew his second.

S. Miller spoke about his findings about the role of the budget committee (JMA Budget Committee) in the recommendations of the school's budget. He reported that the role of the budget committee is advisory. He spoke about a petition warrant article that he is working on, which is similar to one that was proposed by Loring Carr in 2004. There was discussion about the proposed petition Warrant article.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

R. Bailey spoke about the operating budget. He reported he had mentioned last week about the benefits budget line item for a one-time stipend (for health insurance) that would be about \$8,000 but now it looks like it is going to be about \$10,000. He stated they would not be changing the number, they would find it in the budget. G. Fuller asked L. Carr why department heads were still paying zero for health insurance when employees had to pay for it. L. Carr responded that it was something they would look into next year.

K. Painter reviewed the budget line item for the Selectmen's salaries and noted it was reduced. There was discussion about the budget for General Government. S. Miller motioned to recommend \$332,717.00 for General Government and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of four with two no votes. (No – GF, LC)

BUDGET COMMITTEE

The budget for Budget Committee was reviewed. S. Miller motioned to accept \$2,042.00 for the Budget Committee. R. MacDonald seconded the motion. There was discussion about the cost of the recording secretary and the Committee noted that they had already exceeded their budget. S. Miller withdrew his motion and R. MacDonald withdrew his second. R. MacDonald motioned to increase budget line item 184 to \$2,000.00 and G. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of four with two no votes. (No – LC, MD).

S. Miller motioned to recommend for the Budget Committee \$2,547.00 and G. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of four with two no votes. (No – LC, MD).

M. DeCoff felt the Budget Committee's budget should be level funded. S. Miller motioned to recommend the \$2,047.00 for the Budget Committee. There was no second.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

L. Carr motioned to recommend \$316,374 for the Fire Department and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of four with one no vote and one abstain. (No – GF / Abstain – MD)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

L. Carr motioned to recommend \$3,528.00 and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

There was review and discussion on the Highway Department budget. M. DeCoff motioned to recommend \$990,080.00 for Highway Department and S. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of five with one no vote. (No – LC)

STREET LIGHTS

L. Carr motioned to recommend the budget for Street Lights and G. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of four with two no votes. (No – SM, RM)

SOLID WASTE

M. DeCoff motioned to recommend the budget for Solid Waste at \$466,856.00 and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of three, with two no votes, and one abstaining. (No – GF, LC / Abstain – SM)

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

L. Carr motioned to recommend \$21,433.00 for Household Hazardous Waste and S. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

WATER DEPARTMENT

S. Miller motioned to change the budget line item for Water – Health 4331-040 from \$34,762.00 to \$34,757 and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

R. MacDonald motioned to change the budget line item for Water – Dental 4331-041 from \$1,400.00 to \$1,857.00 and S. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote. *[Recorder's Note: There was not a poll conducted at the end of the vote but the Chair is hear to say the motion carried.]*

L. Carr motioned to recommend the budget for Water Department at \$294,695.00 and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

ANIMAL CONTROL

L. Carr motioned to recommend \$14,706 for Animal Control and G. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of five with one no vote. (No – RM)

WELFARE OFFICE

G. Fuller motioned to recommend \$81,316 for Welfare Department and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

S. Miller motioned to recommend \$78,995.00 for Recreation Department and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of four with two no votes. (No – LC, GF)

LIBRARY

S. Miller stated he would like to see this budget level funded. G. Fuller noted it was up five percent from the previous year. S. Miller motioned to find the Library at \$114,244.00 and G. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion failed with two yes votes and four no votes. (Yes – SM, GF)

R. MacDonald motioned to recommend \$120,492 for the Library and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed with four yes votes and two no votes. (No – SM, GF)

GILMAN MUSEUM

L. Carr motioned to approve \$11,553.00 for the Gilman Museum and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

PATRIOTIC PURPOSES

L. Carr motioned to recommend \$24,500 for Patriotic Purposes. There was discussion about the cost of fireworks.

G. Fuller motioned to reduce Fireworks to \$18,400.00 and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. R. Bailey noted that they also had to pay for the cost of the barge last year. G. Fuller withdrew his motion and M. DeCoff withdrew his second.

G. Fuller motioned to recommend \$19,500.00 and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of four with one no vote and one abstaining. (No – LC / Abstain – SM)

M. DeCoff motioned to recommend \$22,000.00 for Patriotic Purposes and G. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of five with one abstaining. (No – LC)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

L. Carr motioned to recommend \$11,322.00 and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of five with one no vote. (No – GF)

INTEREST SHORT TERM

M. DeCoff motioned to recommend \$1.00 for Interest Short Term and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

HUMAN SERVICES SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLES:

M. DeCoff motioned to recommend the request for \$8996.00 by Community Action Program and S. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of four with two no votes. (No – MD, SM)

K. Painter noted that she was a Board member of the Community Action Program but received no money from them for her service.

S. Miller motioned to recommend the request for \$7951 for VNA-Hospice, Wolfeboro, and L. Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of five with one no vote. (No – GF)

S. Miller motioned to recommend the request \$5100 for Community Health and Hospice, Laconia, and L. Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of five with one no vote. (No – GF)

L. Carr motioned to recommend the request for \$2280 for the American Red Cross and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of five with one no vote. (No – GF)

L. Carr motioned to recommend the request for \$10,000 for Alton Community Services and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of five with one no vote. (No – GF)

L. Carr motioned to recommend the request for \$284.00 for Medication Bridge and S. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of five with one no vote. (No – GF)

L. Carr motioned to recommend the request for \$1,500.00 for New Beginnings and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of four with two no votes. (No – RM, GF)

M. DeCoff motioned to recommend the request for \$7,500.00 for Genesis – Behavioral Health and L. Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of four with two no votes. (No – SM, GF)

L. Carr motioned to recommend the request for \$2000.00 for Caregivers of the Wolfeboro Area and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of four with two no votes. (No – RM, GF)

L. Carr motioned to recommend the request of \$500.00 for CASA – Court Appointed Special Advocates and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of five with one no vote. (No – GF)

L. Carr motioned to recommend the request of \$2,400 for Appalachian Mountain Teen Project and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of five with one no vote. (No – GF)

S. Miller motioned to recommend the Benefit Buyout as presented and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

G. Fuller motioned to recommend \$28,000 for the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund and S. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

R. MacDonald motioned to recommend \$128,597 for the Ambulance and L. Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

L. Carr motioned to recommend \$10,000 for the Bridge Replacement Account and S. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

L. Carr motioned to recommend \$10,000 for the Transfer Station Capital Reserve and G. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

There was discussion about what was left to be voted on for the school budget.

There was discussion about the upcoming December 17 meeting. K. Painter stated that if the school had the Warrant articles to the Committee in time for the meeting. It was the consensus of the Committee that they would keep the meeting for December 17 and schedule a work session on December 29.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

G. Fuller motioned to adjourn and M. DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Argiropolis
Recorder