

## TOWN OF ALTON

Alton Budget Committee  
Public Minutes

**(Approved 1/9/08)**

December 20, 2007

Members Present: Steve Miller, Chair  
Gregory Fuller, Vice Chair  
Elizabeth Dominick  
Karen Painter  
Jeffrey St. Cyr, Alton School Board Representative  
Peter Bolster, Alton Selectmen Representative

Members Absent: Richard MacDonald

Others Present: Members of the Public

### I. CALL TO ORDER

S. Miller called the meeting to order at 6:40PM.

### II. ROLL CALL

G. Fuller was absent at the time of roll call but arrived approximately ten minutes after the beginning of the meeting.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

S. Miller presented the three Warrant articles from the JMA:

#### **Auditorium Warrant Article:**

*To see if the School District will raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars (\$9,885) for the purchase and installation of permanent fixtures (i.e. lights, sound equipment, and speakers) to outfit the Prospect Mountain High School Auditorium; said sum representing fifty percent (50%) of the total monies, Nineteen Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$19,770) necessary for the purchase and installation of permanent fixtures to outfit the Prospect Mountain High School Auditorium, and further the raising and appropriation of these funds shall be contingent upon both the Alton and Barnstead School Districts adopting this article and raising and appropriating the same sum of money.*

#### **Contingency Fund Warrant Article:**

*To see if the School District will raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty two thousand nine hundred eighteen dollars and 15 cents, (\$32,918.15) to establish a*

*contingency fund under the provisions of RSA 198:4-b (Contingency Fund) to meet the cost of unanticipated utility expenses that may arise during the fiscal year 2009 at Prospect Mountain High School; said sum representing fifty and nine hundredths percent (50.09%) of the total monies, Sixty five thousand seven hundred eighteen dollars ((\$65,718), 1% of the General Fund), and further that the additional appropriation shall be contingent upon both the Alton (50.09%) and Barnstead (49.91%) School Districts adopting this article and raising and appropriating their respective sum of money. The Prospect Mountain High School Board will be authorized agents to expend. A detailed report of all expenditures from the contingency fund shall be made annually by the School Board and published with their report.*

#### **General Maintenance Fund Warrant Article**

*To see if the School District will raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to establish a capital reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1-c, to be known as the Prospect Mountain High School General Maintenance Fund; said fund to be used for the purpose of meeting the cost of unanticipated general maintenance expenses that may arise at Prospect Mountain High School; said sum representing fifty percent (50%) of the total monies, Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) and further that the appropriation shall be contingent upon both Alton (50%) and Barnstead (50%) School Districts adopting this article and raising and appropriating their respective sum of money. And further to designate the Prospect Mountain High School Board as the authorized agent to expend from the fund. A detailed report of all expenditures from the general maintenance capital reserve fund shall be made annually by the School Board and published with their report.*

He stated they would be meeting on December 27, 2007 at 6:30PM, at PMHS in the Library & Media Center.

J. St. Cyr requested to add an item to the agenda. S. Miller asked about the Warrant articles that the school would be presenting. J. St. Cyr stated there was one about the building but that was in non-public and couldn't be discussed at this time. J. St. Cyr noted there was one about the school board's salaries, one to establish an enrichment fund that would not require any tax dollars, and the general budget. S. Miller asked what the school board's salary Warrant article was and J. St. Cyr responded that the board's salaries are raised from the budget and voted on each year. J. St. Cyr noted there were four Warrant articles from PMHS.

S. Miller stated they could meet about the Warrant articles on 01/09/08 at 5:30PM. There was discussion about the public hearing for the budget. P. Bolster asked if they could review both the town's and the school's budget on the same night. There was one public hearing scheduled on January 9, 2008, for the town, and one on January 11, 2008 for the school, with snow dates scheduled for the date following both hearings, respectfully.

P. Bolster motioned for the public hearing to present the town's budget and the school's budget on the same day, January 9, 2008 and if they run over then to reconvene on January 11, 2008. R. MacDonald seconded the motion. G. Fuller spoke about posting the meetings. The motion passed by a vote of six. (SM, ED, KP, JS, PB / no – GF / absent - RM)

S. Miller motioned to schedule January 10, 2008 as the snow date or continuation date, if needed, and E. Dominick seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

P. Bolster stated that the comments in The Laconia Daily Sun that quoted him were not all correct quotes about video taping the meetings.

S. Miller discussed the public hearing format. The public hearing is scheduled for 6PM – not 6:30PM.

S. Miller announced that the JMA budget, as approved, minus the Warrant articles is \$7,049,921.00. J. St. Cyr reported that the board had voted to approve the budget committee's recommendations. S. Miller noted there were two nominal deductions from the proposed budget. He felt that the new administration and interim principal were doing a very good job. He spoke about how he felt about the requested budgeted amount for Improvement of Instruction for staff development. He felt they were over budgeted in that area but that the motion he had made to reduce that was defeated.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

The Committee reviewed Warrant article #9, for a new police vehicle SUV at \$30,100.00. There was no discussion.

The Committee reviewed Warrant article #10, which is to raise \$70,000.00 for the police building expansion capital reserve fund. The Budget Committee recommended \$30,000.00. G. Fuller asked why the Committee had recommended \$30,000.00. S. Miller stated he didn't see the reason why they needed to put more money in this fund that would just be collecting interest because they weren't able to project the final cost for the project yet. R. Bailey stated the design would be complete in 2008 and they were going to try to complete it in 2009 but he was unsure how long it would take.

The Committee reviewed Warrant article #11, which is to raise \$10,000.00 for landfill closure. There was no discussion.

The Committee reviewed Warrant article #13, which is for \$50,000.00 to be added to the building site improvements for the Solid Waste Center. There was no discussion.

The Committee reviewed Warrant article #15, which is for \$10,000 the sidewalk improvement fund. There was no discussion.

The Committee reviewed Warrant article #17, which is for \$34,400 for a new one-ton vehicle for the Building & Grounds department. R. Bailey spoke about the process of how this is paid for.

The Committee reviewed Warrant article #18, which is for \$12,000 for snow removal equipment. This was tabled at a previous meeting by the Committee. S. Miller motioned to recommend \$12,000 for the snow removal equipment and E. Dominick seconded the motion. There was discussion about what this would be used for. The motion passed by a vote of six. (SM, ED, KP, JS, PB / no – GF / absent - RM)

The Committee reviewed Warrant article #20, for the Ambulance request. G. Fuller asked what would happen if this should fail. R. Bailey spoke about some of their possible options for keeping the ambulance running if this failed.

The Committee reviewed Warrant article #21, \$40,000 to be added to the Alton Fire Station Capital Reserve. There was no discussion.

The Committee reviewed Warrant article #22, for \$50,000 for the lease payment of the fire vehicle. It was noted that the Budget Committee's recommendation of this Warrant article was not printed on the handout.

The Committee reviewed Warrant article #23, for \$30,100 for a new vehicle for the Fire Department, to replace the 1998 vehicle. There was no discussion.

The Committee reviewed Warrant article #25, \$750,000 for the Highway Department road reconstruction fund. There was no discussion.

The Committee reviewed Warrant article #26, \$172,000 for a ten wheel dump truck for the Highway Department. P. Bolster spoke about a six-wheel truck vs. a ten wheel truck and some of his findings for savings and productivity the ten wheel truck would provide. G. Fuller spoke about his concerns for "budget quotes" and felt that it was high. There was discussion about the need for the truck and the quote that the town had received for it.

The Committee reviewed Warrant article #27, \$10,000 for the bridge replacement capital reserve fund. There was no discussion.

The Committee reviewed Warrant article #28 for meals on wheels. There was discussion about possibly having this as a two year Warrant article.

The Committee reviewed Warrant article #29 for VNA Hospice.

The Committee reviewed Warrant article #30 for Youth Service Bureau. P. Bolster spoke about a recent discussion he had with a representative of the Youth Service Bureau. He spoke about the counseling service the organization provides. They provided service to twenty-five minors from Alton last year. P. Bolster spoke about services that the organization offers to help minors.

S. Miller stated that P. Bolster's information was incorrect and that they had helped a total of six minors from Alton in the past five years. He noted that they had serviced only one minor last year and that they had serviced only two in 2006. P. Bolster stated it was a six year average. S. Miller disagreed with P. Bolster and stated he had had a forty-five minute conversation with the representative who refused to give him her name but had reported the number of minors they had serviced in the past six years. S. Miller stated that the \$18,000 to \$20,000 they had paid last year was for two minors and felt this could be done "in house". He spoke about staffing for the Youth Service Bureau and reported there is one fulltime counselor. There was discussion about the findings that S. Miller and P. Bolster had reported.

J. St Cyr motioned to approve \$22,653.30 for Youth Services Bureau and P. Bolster seconded the motion. S. Miller stated it was too much money for one minor last year. The motion failed by a vote of two "yes" and four "no" votes. (yes – PB, JS / no - SM, ED, KP, GF / absent - RM)

The Committee reviewed the Warrant article for Community Health and Hospice. There was no discussion.

[Tape ends.]

Respectfully Submitted,

Recorder, Public Sessions