

**Budget Committee
Town of Alton
Thursday, January 6, 2011
Minutes approved January 17, 2011**

I. Called to order at 6:05

II. Roll Call -

Steve Miller, Chairman
Marc DeCoff, Vice Chairman
Virgil MacDonald, member
Barbara Howard, member
Doug Kirkpatrick, member
Pat Fuller, Selectmen Representative
Krista Argiropolis, School Board Representative

Others present:

Bonnie Jean Kuras, Principal
Kathy O'Blenes, Business Administrator
Kathy Holt, Superintendent
Debbie Brown, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

III. Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Agenda. Include "Agenda" after Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION by K. Argiropolis to accept the Agenda as amended. Second by B. Howard. No discussion.

All in Favor

MOTION passed 7-0

V. Public input - No public input seen or heard.

Public input closed.

VI. Old business.

a. Federal funds legal opinion.

S. Miller did not get a written legal opinion from Barrett Christina, legal attorney at NH School Board Assoc. Discussed with him regarding the amount required for fed funds. Inquired of him if there would be any legal ramifications regarding dollar amounts? He indicated no. If you put in \$1, or \$5,000 no difference, but if you know amount put it in. No ramification or legal issues as far as the DRA is concerned. Referred to RSA 198:20-b. Stated that it does not make sense for taxpayer reasons if there is no downside to this or no economic reason other than taking money from the taxpayers to give them back, at some later date, reducing a future tax bill. This is the time to save our taxpayers money not at some future time.

General discussion from Kathy Holt and Budget Committee regarding grant moneys received. This year guaranteed \$77,000. Title 1 funds approx \$50,000 and total of approx \$150,000. This is an absolute wash. S. Miller asked for rationale of putting \$100,000. Noted that \$100,000 does not touch the tax payers. Cannot overestimate. School board assuring that they will be receiving approx \$77,000 and does not affect the tax payers.

b. \$30,000 architects obligation.

All bills and invoices paid or received from Chip Krause, and his firm CMK Architects or any other Architect firms from September 2008 to January 5, 2011. 80% of bill represented. The complete bill will be submitted when the job is complete. Discussion on the windows and getting the job correct and complete. (i.e. Windows open out, liability) Clerk of the Works discussion.

S. Miller listed 9 problems with issues.

1. Verbal agreement for \$30,000. Nothing in writing. Not good business. How did this pass an audit? Krista Argiropolis noted they gave the Budget Committee an estimate on the 14th of December, 2010.
2. Violated their own (School Board) policy that anything over \$5,000 goes out to bid. School Board gives themselves an out. (i.e. roof caving in for emergency situation only).
3. Problem with Ms. Noyes said they plan on using High school bond interest for paying Mr. Krause. High school bond has nothing to do with Central School. Who should the interest on the bond go back to? Should be the tax payers.
4. School board did not follow the architect guidelines from the Department of Education. None followed.
5. When Building and Grounds asked for the drawings to be done and essentially hired the architect and not the School Board. They can only make recommendations. Minutes show the B & G voted on this and authorized this. (Building and Grounds can only make recommendations). No minutes that the School Board authorized this.
6. The taxpayers have not approved a new school, or a new second story or a multimillion dollar project to be done. This should be shown as a \$30,000 warrant article. Tax payers should be making this decision (to hire an architect). This money has already been spent. This was committed. K. Argiropolis stated they have technically not paid. S. Miller stated the taxpayers have voted no for these plans. Should have been a warrant article asking for permission.
7. Noted it was stated that this work was delivered before June of 2010. S. Miller asked if this statement is correct. K. Argiropolis confirmed yes.
8. Noted they want to pay the \$30,000 from the interest from Alton and Barnstead. This is not just PMHS but Alton and Barnstead bond.
Kathy O'Blenes stated there were 3 different warrant articles for the spending of the interest monies.
9. To spend the money, if it was decided to take it from the interest account. You have to have a public hearing.
Noted that 1/5/11 the Buildings & Grounds have voted to extend his contract. Technically "architect on staff".

Steve Parker present from Buildings & Grounds committee.

Krista stated they are going forward with Mr.Krause, nothing being duped. Been on call for a lot of issues.

S. Miller stated the bidding process is to prevent a quid pro quo situation.

Krista Argiropolis noted that historically that request for monies have not been presented with plans and have been voted down. She will take the issues and back to the School Board for them to discuss and consider.

MOTION by S. Miller that because of the 9 reasons and because there is still time to post a warrant article, that they remove \$30,000 from the School Board budget (2310). Reason that the School Board is going to have to pay the \$30,000 this year (this budget). Does not believe the School Board has followed good business protocol in terms of putting this out for bid and even putting this in the budget. S. Miller would be willing to change his mind if he saw a warrant article for \$30,000 for the public to decide to go forward to view drawings and renderings on a building or a major renovation of the building which will be for a project for a minimum of a million dollars. Second by V. MacDonald.

Discussion - If this was paid, where would the funds come out of?

S. Miller amended the motion to take it out of (2600 Building & Grounds). Take it out of snow plow (\$30,000). Intent is to press upon the School Board to put this out as a warrant article. Amended Motion Second by V. MacDonald.

No further discussion.

Vote In Favor -V. MacDonald, M. DeCoff, S. Miller, B. Howard, D. Kirkpatrick

Opposed - P. Fuller, K. Argiropolis

MOTION passes 5-2.

Discussion about bond interest account. Approx \$50,000.

Discussion regarding any request for monies has to go out as a warrant article.

S. Miller noted another solution - get a legitimate poll of the town.

c. Other old business.

S. Miller wants to get clarified \$37,980 into the gifted line with the idea of making this full-time. School Board could not commit at this time. By reading over the School Board minutes, feels that they are taking \$37,980 and they are going to do what they want with this money. Krista Argiropolis noted The School Board has not made a decision on accepting this yet.

K. Holt stated that the Budget Committee sets the bottom line of the budget.

S. Miller asked if they add money to the School Board budget and the School Board does not accept it, it would be ill advised to use this somewhere else, but the Budget Committee cannot restrict the use of the money.

Dec 14 minutes, page 8, putting \$100,000 minutes state in all in favor. S. Miller noted he did vote no on this motion and the minutes state all in favor.

Krista Argiropolis asked if when the School Board drafts up the warrant article can they send to the Budget Committee for confirming the amounts? S. Miller answered yes.

No other old business.

Discussion with S. Parker on an item not pertinent to the Budget Committee.

7:20 p.m. Pat Fuller left meeting.

Public input closed.

VI. New business.

a. Questions from public input 1/5/11.

S. Miller will email questions from Mr. Peter Keen to Superintendent and Deb Brown for answers and he will also send answers to Mr. Keen.

b. Tabled warrant articles.- document distributed by school board representative.

S. Miller noted they voted on Article II, and Article III and IV were tabled.

Article II: To determine and fix the salaries of the School Board and the compensation of any other officers or agents of the District as follows: Moderator \$200 per meeting; Clerk \$200 per meeting; Treasurer \$2,000; Chairman of the School Board \$2,100; School Board members \$2,000. These cost items are included in the operating budget. (The Alton School Board recommends by vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee does recommend by a vote of 6-0).

Article III: was tabled and is still tabled.

Article IV: was tabled.

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00)** to be added to the existing Building and Grounds Expendable Trust created 3-11-08 under RSA 198:20-c for the purpose of building, repairing, and maintaining school facilities. (The Alton School Board recommends \$150,000.00 by a vote of 5-0.)

Discussion on Article IV. Question if there should there be two different warrants so if one failed the other could pass. Having the article broken down so it can be more explicative for public knowledge. K. Holt said she heard last year from C.P. and Budget Committee to break items down.

S. Miller called for a vote.

MOTION by V. MacDonald to accept Article IV as written. Second by K. Argiropolis. No Discussion. Vote In Favor: V. MacDonald, M. DeCoff, S. Miller, B. Howard, D. Kirkpatrick, K. Argiropolis. MOTION passed 6-0.

Article V. A Special Warrant Article

To see if the School District will vote to establish a Contingency Fund under the provisions of RSA 198:4-b to meet the cost of unanticipated utilities expenses that may arise during the fiscal year 2011 at Alton School District. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of **Sixty Thousand Dollars and No cents, (\$60,000.00)** toward this purpose and to name the Alton School Board as agents to expend from this fund. A detailed report of all expenditures from the contingency fund shall be made annually by the School Board and published with their report. (Any funds not used will be returned to the Town.) (The Alton School Board recommends \$60,000.00 by a vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee does recommend \$60,000,00 by a vote of 6-0.)

Article VI still on hold, anticipated to have an answer on the 11th.

MOTION by V. MacDonald to table Article VI. Second by B. Howard. No discussion. Vote in favor: V. MacDonald, M. DeCoff, S. Miller, B. Howard, D. Kirkpatrick, K. Argiropolis. MOTION passed 6-0.

Article VII was not discussed.

Article XIII. Was tabled.

Article XIII: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to **Fifty Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$50,000.00)** to be placed in the existing Building and Grounds Expendable Trust created 3-11-08 under RSA 198:20-c for the purpose of building, repairing, and maintaining school facilities, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2011 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2011. (The Alton School Board recommends \$50,000.00 by a vote of 5-0.)

Discussion on Article XIII. Clarification on up to \$50,000. K. Holt noted you have to limit it to a maximum total. You can go up to \$50,000. Gives the taxpayers the ability to say spend my money or not spend the money.

MOTION by V. MacDonald to accept Article XIII as read. Second by D. Kirkpatrick. No discussion. Vote in Favor - V. MacDonald, M. DeCoff, S. Miller, B. Howard, D. Kirkpatrick, K. Argiropolis. MOTION passed 6-0

Article IX: A Special Warrant Article. Noted the records reflects conflicting voting numbers.

Article IX: To see if the School District will vote to create an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 198-20-c, to be known as Roof Expendable Trust, for the purpose of repairing, replacing, and

maintaining roofs on school buildings. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Thirty Five Thousand and No cents (\$135,000.00)** toward this purpose and to name the School Board as agents to expend from this fund. (The Alton School Board recommends \$135,000.00 by a vote of 5-0.

Discussion on Article IX:

MOTION by V. MacDonald to accept Article IX as read. Second by K. Argiropolis. Discussion on the motion: Discussion on spending the money. K. Holt noted they will not do anything to the roof until such time as stated not voting for it because there is no emergency at this time. K. Holt states they are not under a pending emergency pending they shovel. Inspected to reveal wrong timbers (cracked) used. No money in this fund now. Money needs to be put back into this fund. Schools does not have a surplus fund. S. Miller stated there is currently \$230,000 in Buildings and Grounds that could be used if there was a need currently. Money cannot be spent on anything else. Can only be used for the roof if they have no hope. Not going to fix the roof until there is no hope of getting the renovation. S. Miller

S. Miller called for vote of the motion.

In Favor - V. MacDonald, M. DeCoff, B. Howard, D. Kirkpatrick, K. Argiropolis.

Opposed - S. Miller.

MOTION passed 5-1

Article X: A Special Warrant Article.

To see if the School District will vote to create an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 198:20-c, to be known as Parking Lot Paving Expendable Trust, for the purpose of repairing, replacing and maintaining parking lots on school properties. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$10,000.00)** toward this purpose and to name the School Board as agents to expend from this fund. (The Alton School Board recommends \$10,000.00 by a vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee does not recommend \$10,000.00 by a vote of 2-4.

Article XI: A Special Warrant Article.

To see if the School District will vote to create an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 198:20-c, to be known ad Facilities Truck Expendable Trust, for the purpose of replacing school facilities truck with plow. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$10,000.00)** toward this purpose and to name the School Board as agents to expend from this fund. (The Alton School Board recommends \$10,000.00 by a vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee does recommend \$10,000.00 by a vote of 4-2.)

Article XII: A Special Warrant Article

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$30,000.00)** to be added to the Bathroom Refurbishment Fund previously established in March 2005, under the provisions of RSA 35:1, for the purpose of refurbishing the bathrooms at the Alton Central School. (The Alton School Board recommends \$30,000.00 by a vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee does recommend \$30,000.00 by a vote of 6-0.)

Article XIII. A Special Warrant Article

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Forty Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$40,000.00)** to be added to the Windows Replacement Fund previously established in March 2005, under the provision of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of replacing the windows at the Alton Central School. (The Alton School Board recommends \$40,000.00 by a vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee does not recommend \$40,000.00 by a vote of 3-3.

Article XIV: this article was crossed out and not voted on.

Article XV: A Special Warrant Article

To see if the School District will vote to add to a non-capital, non-lapsing reserve fund known as the "Improvement of Instruction Fund" for the purpose of reimbursing teachers the costs of professional development, and to raise and appropriate up to the sum of **Fifteen Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$15,000.00)** from the June 30 unreserved Fiscal Year 2011 fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1 of this year, which is Fifty and No Hundredths Percent (50.00%) of the total monies of Thirty Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$30,000.00) and further that the additional appropriation shall be contingent upon both the Alton (50.00%) and Barnstead (50.00%) School Districts adopting the article and appropriating and transferring their respective sum of money. The Prospect Mountain High School Board is the designated agent to expend from the "Improvement of Instruction Fund". A detailed report of all expenditures from the fund shall be made annually by the respective School Boards of Alton and Barnstead and published in their annual reports. Approved and Recommended by the Prospect Mountain School Board 9-0. (The Alton School Board recommends \$15,000 by a vote of _____. The Alton Budget Committee does recommend \$15,000 by a vote of 5-1.

Article XVI: Tabled because it was not written properly.

Article XVII: A Special Warrant Article

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$20,000.00)** to be added to a non-lapsing capital reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1-c 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, **Forty Thousand Dollars and No cents (\$40,000.00)** and further that this 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 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 respective School Boards of Alton and Barnstead and published with their annual reports. Approved and Recommended by the Prospect Mountain School Board 10-0. (The Alton School Board recommends \$20,000.00 by a vote of 5-0.)

Discussion on Article XVII:

Maintenance for the high school that they want to build up.

**MOTION by M. DeCoff to accept Article XVII as read. Second by V. MacDonald. No discussion.
Vote In Favor - V. MacDonald, M. DeCoff, S. Miller, B. Howard, D. Kirkpatrick, K. Argiropolis.
MOTION Passed 6-0.**

Article XVIII:

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of **Thirteen Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars and No cents (\$13,800.00)** to fund a Wind Power Feasibility Study of the High School property, said sum representing Fifty and No Hundredths Percent (50.00%) of the total monies. Twenty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Dollars and No cents (\$27,600.00) and further that this appropriation shall be contingent upon both the Alton (50.00%) and Barnstead (50.00 %) School Districts adopting this article and raising and appropriating their respective sum of money. The Prospect Mountain High School Board is hereby designated the agent to expend these funds. (Prospect Mountain High School Board Recommends by vote of 8-1). (The Alton School Board recommends \$ _____ by a vote of ____.)

Discussion of Article XVIII:

School Board has not seen this article and yet to determine an amount of money. Noted this was voted on last year and report to Budget Committee with report. B. Howard noted there is a windmill at the landfill and can the students use that study? Krista Argiropolis suggested this be tabled to the public session.

**MOTION by B. Howard to table Article XVIII. Second by M. DeCoff. No discussion.
Vote In Favor - V. MacDonald, M. DeCoff, S. Miller, B. Howard, D. Kirkpatrick, K. Argiropolis.
MOTION Passed 6-0.**

C. Default budget

Prospect number approved \$3,365,664.00

Prior to today. \$13,080,011. Not with tonight's changes. Less \$30,000 \$13,050,011

Last number for default budget from minutes \$12,858.171.

Kathy will email copies to S. Miller and board members.

Other new business.

No other new business

Calendar - no changes

RECEIVED

MOTION by M. DeCoff to adjourn. Second by B. Howard. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

Adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Schaeffner



Approved January 14, 2011