

Town of Alton

Budget Committee Meeting
Minutes

APPROVED

January 9, 2007

Present: Stephen Miller, Chair; William Curtin; Laurie Boyce; Elizabeth Dominick
Pete Shibley (Selectmen's Rep.); Terri Noyes (ACS Board Rep.);
Russ Bailey, Town Administrator; Krista Argiropolis, Secretary

Cydney Johnson; Dan LaCroix; Loring Carr; Michael Tocci, Steve Ross, and
Members of the Public

Absent: Virgil MacDonald;

I. CALL TO ORDER

S. Miller called the meeting to order at approximately 6:03PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

V. MacDonald was absent. E. Dominick arrived at approximately 6:15pm.

IV. HOUSEKEEPING

There were no previous meeting minutes to approve.

V. BUDGET COMMITTEE VOTE AND TOWN – BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

S. Miller stated that there were last minute line item adjustments and warrant articles to be reviewed and recommended. He noted there may be possible adjustments to some of the items.

S. Miller reviewed the agenda. He stated that public input will be taken when the town budget is approved. He requested the members of the public to please state their name for the recorder before their comment or question.

VI. ALTON SCHOOL BUDGET AND WARRANT ARTICLES

The Committee reviewed and discussed the warrant articles for the Alton School. The warrant articles were discussed in the following order:

S. Miller stated that Article I had already been covered and that the operational line items had already been okayed. The first article that was reviewed was Article IV.

ARTICLE IV – To see if the District will vote to authorize the School Board to buy properties surrounding the school on such terms and conditions as the School Board

shall determine are in the best interest of the School District; and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1.00 for the purchase of land and buildings for the purpose of expansion at Alton Central School.

W. Curtin asked if the \$1 meant that this would be by eminent domain. T. Noyes responded that that was not the case but this was to allow them to go into a contract agreement with the owners of the abutting properties around the school and then bring the contacted amount before the town for a vote to approve the purchase. The Alton School Board recommends \$1 for this.

[Recorder's note: Please see ARTICLE V for the vote for ARTICLE IV.]

ARTICLE V – Shall the District, if Article IV is defeated, vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for construction of a new school building, including acquisition of a site, and for school building renovation, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 to be placed in the fund.

S. Miller asked what the recommendation was from the Alton School Board. The Alton School Board recommends \$250,000. T. Noyes noted that there were negotiations taking place with three of the abutters. There was a discussion about the renovations vs. a new school building.

C. Johnson, Alton School Board Chair, announced that three property owners are willing to sell. Three appraisers are reporting their findings and this amount will be amended based on the outcome of the contractual agreement. She spoke about the outcome of a recent survey taken by the Long Range Facility Planning Committee where an overwhelming number of respondents stated they would like to see the school stay in its current location. She noted this warrant article was to negotiate for one piece of land and some of the money would be used to renovate. The amount is a starting point. She stated there are no purchase and sales agreements at this time. She stated that a purchase would probably expand the present building by about four acres. An addition onto the school could add as many as ten classrooms, while maintaining field space. She stated that they are asking for Article V only if Article IV fails, so that a Capital Reserve Fund can be established. She noted that major renovations would need to be done to make changes in the school.

S. Miller asked if \$100,000 for this warrant article to change things would make a difference. C. Johnson stated they had found that just replacing fifteen windows would be about \$250,000. No money had been raised last year for the purpose of renovating the school. There was a discussion about how the money would be used. P. Shibley spoke about his concerns for what he felt was lack of a plan with the warrant article. It was found that it was for a mixed purpose; both renovations and acquiring property. S. Miller spoke about how the Alton Budget Committee had increased the ACS budget for Buildings and Grounds

W. Curtin motioned to recommend \$1 for Article IV and L. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, ED, PS, TN)

P. Shibley motioned to recommend \$1 for Article V and W. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of four to two. (SM, WC, PS, ED, / no - LB, TN)

ARTICLE XI – To see if the School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,327.00 to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund previously established in March 1998, under the provision of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of installing a fire suppression system.

There was a discussion about if this would still be needed if a new school was to be built. T. Noyes explained they would not install the fire suppression system just to rip it out again. This was to have the money available for this system, which has been identified as a need. L. Boyce motioned to recommend Article IV, as presented at \$18,327.00 and L. Dominick seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, ED, PS, TN)

ARTICLE VII – To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Alton School District and the Alton Teachers’ Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits: \$222,340 (year 2007-2008), \$124,414 (year 2008-2009), and \$193,849 (year 2009-2010) and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$222,340 for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year.

C. Johnson reported that this is for a three year contract. She reported there are forty-six and one-half teachers, the half teacher means part-time. There was a discussion about the agreement reached during the collective bargaining. D. LaCroix spoke about how the first year is the highest because they had negotiated to buy out the longevity stipend for fourteen teachers. There was discussion about how the business manager arrived at the reported sums for 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. S. Miller stated it was important that the Budget Committee understand what the article was requesting. It was found that several teachers would go up in step and track for 2009-2010 and there was a 10% increase figured into the health insurance. W. Curtin motioned to recommend Article 7 at \$222,340, as presented, and L. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, ED, PS, TN)

ARTICLE IX – To see if the School District will raise and appropriate 52.40% of the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the PMHS Board (JMA Alton/Barnstead) and the PMHS Teachers’ Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits: \$216,136 (year 2007-2008), \$207,944 (2008-2009), and \$212,220 (2009-2010). And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$113,226 for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, such sum representing 52.40% of the total additional costs of \$216,136 attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year. (Previously approved by the Town of Barnstead at their FY 2006 School District Meeting.)

There was a discussion about the collective bargaining agreement. S. Miller asked if the employees who were not a part of the collective bargaining agreement would receive a similar raise and benefits. C. Johnson stated that because they were not a part of the PMHS Teachers’ Association, they would not. There was a discussion about how raises are budgeted for and applied, as they are included in the Superintendent’s budget and then moved to the appropriate budget line item when the raise is applied. W. Curtin motioned to recommend Article IX, at \$113,226 and P. Shibley seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, ED, PS, TN)

T. Noyes noted that the statement in parenthesis about the Barnstead 2006 school district meeting was left over from the previous year. C. Johnson stated she thought this was a copy and paste error from when the article was drafted. S. Miller motion to remove the following statement from Article IX, “(Previously approved by the Town of Barnstead at their FY 2006 School District Meeting.)” and T. Noyes seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, ED, PS, TN)

ARTICLE X – To see if the School District will raise and appropriate the sum of \$47,710 to establish a contingency fund to meet the cost of unanticipated utility expenses that may arise during the fiscal year 2008 at PMHS; said sum representing 52.40% of the total monies (\$91,050) and further that the additional appropriation shall be contingent upon both the Alton (52.40%) and Barnstead (47.60%) school districts adopting this article and raising and appropriating their respective sum of money. The PMHS 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.

There was a brief discussion about this article. W. Curtin motion to recommend Article X, as written, and L. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, ED, PS, TN)

ARTICLE XI – To see if the School District will raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to establish a capital reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 198L20-c, to be known as the PMHS General Maintenance Fund, to be used to meet the cost of anticipated general maintenance expenses that may arise during the Fiscal Year 2008 at PMHS; said sum representing 52.40% of the total monies (\$91,050) and further that the additional appropriation shall be contingent upon both the Alton (52.40%) and Barnstead (47.60%) school districts adopting this article and raising and appropriating their respective sum of money. The PMHS 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.

E. Dominick asked if this was done every year. C. Johnson explained that this was for a maintenance plan, as many things were coming off warrantee. She state that this will be asked for each year, from each town, until \$100,000 is reached, and that this will be used for emergencies. W. Curtin asked about the fields at PMHS that have some problems and if this money would be used to fix that. C. Johnson responded that those will be back-expensed, and would not come out of this capital reserve fund. L. Boyce motioned to recommend Article IX as written and P. Shibley seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, ED, PS, TN)

S. Miller gave kudos to PMHS Principal Russ Holden, who has been named NH Principal of the Year.

ARTICLE XII – To see if the School District will raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000; said sum representing 50% of an estimated cost up to \$10,000 to obtain legal counsel to provide research, consultation and advice to amend state statutes which would include enabling language to authorize JMA's to hold joint meetings and hearings on budget and other warrant articles. And further the expenditure of these funds shall be contingent upon both Alton and Barnstead school districts adopting this article and raising and appropriating the same sum of money.

S. Miller spoke about how Article XII had been discussed at length at the recent JMA Budget Review meeting. He stated he felt the intent matched the wording of the article. There was a discussion about the intent of the article. C. Johnson spoke about how the town cannot come together to present and exchange information about the budget and warrant articles due to the current language. L. Boyce motioned to recommend Article XII, as written and T. Noyes seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of five to one. (SM, WC, LB, ED, TN / no - PS)

ARTICLE XIV – To see if the Alton School District will vote to support establishing the position of a school social worker/prevention coordinator at PMHS for the purpose of providing effective liason between the school and parents, the Community and preventative programs for youth so they can effectively make positive choices concerning societal problems such as the current addiction issies related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. This position will have a focus on prevention type programs such as the Prime for Life preventative curriculum that all freshman students received this Fall; and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,264 for such purposes, such funds consisting of Salary \$32,000, Health \$16,363, Dental \$1,465, NH Returement \$2,797, FICA \$2,448, Workman's Compensation \$192. The Alton contribution at 52.4% is \$28,958 and the Barnstead contribution at 47.6% is \$26,306. This position is needed to properly recognized the PMHS societal responsibility to the community to teach youth how to make positive lifestyle choices. (Submitted by Petition).

S. Miller asked if this was the position that was cut from the PMHS Guidance budget. C. Johnson stated that due to lack of justification for this position, it was felt that this position was not needed. There was a discussion about the intent of the article. P. Shibley motioned to not recommend Article XIV and W. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed to not recommend this article by a vote of four to two. (SM, WC, ED, PS / no – TN, LB)

ARTICLE XV – To see if the School will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 for a stipend to the Director of the Winnepesaukee Winners 4H Enrichment program. This after school program has been attended by up to 54 youth from grades 3 through 8 and operates one day a week at ACS during the fall and spring semesters. The Director is supported by parent and faculty volunteers and is offered and coordinated by the UNH Cooperative Extension outreach program's Belknap County 4H Educator. The youth are taught life skills through hands-on projects of their choice such as leadership, gardening, photography and citizenship and attending youth have an opportunity to attend a homework mentoring session. (Submitted by Petition)

There was a discussion about this article and if it was presented to the school board. C. Johnson stated that the Board is not taking any action on this position because it is submitted by petition. She stated that this stipend position was never brought before the Board. The Board in essence has been by-passed in this process. She stated it was the Board's general policy to not have an opinion on petitioned articles, just as the selectmen did not have an opinion on petitioned articles.

S. Ross, ACS Assistant Principal, stated that the stipend used to come from 4-H but it has been greatly reduced. It came from a grant. 4-H has asked that the money come from the school. It is a great program and includes 54 students. He spoke about some of the benefits of the program.

M. Tocci, ACS Interim Principal, stated that this request was not brought through soon enough when the grant ended. It is a petition article. M. Tocci stated he was troubled about the process. He stated he was unaware the grant was ending and it was made known to him after the fact. The petitioners felt this was the best available process. He recommended this amount be granted at the requested amount of \$1,000. The grant has ended and no money comes from the grant.

L. Boyce motioned to recommend Article XIV as presented and T. Noyes seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, ED, PS, TN)

S. Miller reported that the total recommended budget for the school was \$11,880,685.

[Recorder's Note: Articles II, III, VIII, XIII, and XVI did not have a budget impact and were not reviewed for recommendation by the Alton Budget Committee.]

VII. ALTON TOWN BUDGET & WARRANT ARTICLES

S. Miller reviewed the proposed changes to the budget and the Committee voted:

- Water Dept. - Hydrant 4324-406 at \$4,170 (increased \$4,169 from \$1) – L. Boyce motion to approve the change at \$4,170 and W. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, ED, PS, TN)
- Solid Waste Center Demo 4324-406 at \$12,000 – W. Curtin motioned to accept this change and L. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, ED, PS, TN)

S. Miller reviewed the following and asked that the Committee vote on them as he read them off:

- Cemetery Worker's Comp 4195-277 at \$475.00 - The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, ED, PS, TN)

- Water Dept. – Medicare 4331-035 at \$8.00 - The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, ED, PS, TN)
- Water Dept. – FICA 4331-036 at \$34.00 - The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, ED, PS, TN)
- Water Dept. – Health Insurance 4331-040 at \$3,768.50 - The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, ED, PS, TN)
- Water Dept. – NH Retirement 4331-045 at \$223 - The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, ED, PS, TN)
- Water Dept. – Workers Comp 4331-277 at \$1,061 - The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, ED, PS, TN)

S. Miller noted that the changes in the Water Department's budget were due to the Water Department being self-funded. These increases in fixed costs were not plugged in at the time the budget was first presented.

The total changes (increase) in the budget is \$21,756.50.

S. Miller presented the 2007 Special Warrant Article, Number 6, for the purchase of a new compact vehicle for the assessor at \$10,000. The assessor's current vehicle has mechanical problems that would be very costly to fix. There was a discussion about the purchase of a used police cruiser vs. the purchase of a new vehicle. P. Shibley stated that the Selectmen felt the purchase of a new vehicle would be the best option, as the vehicle should last for ten years. W. Curtin motioned to accept Special Warrant Article Number Six, for the Town Hall Compact Vehicle at \$10,000 and P. Shibley seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, ED, PS, TN)

S. Miller presented the 2007 Special Warrant Article, Number 11, for a capitol reserve for the purchase of a beach for the town at \$50,000. R. Bailey spoke about the intent of the Beach Committee and the recent renovations of the Alton Beach at Alton Bay.

L. Boyce motioned to accept the Article 11 as presented at \$50,000 and T. Noyes seconded the motion. There is a proposal to have a capitol reserve on hand if property should become available. It was felt that this may be too much money. The motion was withdrawn.

S. Miller motioned to changes Article 11 to \$5,000 and W. Curtin seconded the motion. There was a discussion about how this idea had been approached in the past. It was felt that this motion might send a message about lack of support. The motion was withdrawn.

L. Boyce motioned to change Article 11 to \$25,000 and W. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of four to two. (WC, LB, ED, TN / no – SM, PS)

VIII. BUDGET COMMITTEE

There was a discussion about the proceedings and if a total appropriations needed to be disclosed. P. Shibley stated that since they did not know if the voters would approve this they did not need to disclose the total appropriations. It was decided that it was best to disclose the revenues.

S. Miller reviewed the revenues of SAU #72. The total appropriations is \$11,857,682. The total non-tax revenues is \$1,096,500. The district assessment is \$10,661,182.

There were no further comments from the Committee.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

P. Shibley motioned to adjourn and T. Noyes seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, ED, PS, TN) The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

S. Miller stated it was brought to his attention that there was a need for public input.

W. Curtin motioned to reconvene and L. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, ED, PS, TN)

X. RECONVENE

The meeting reconvened at approximately 7:58pm.

XI. REVIEW OF 2007 SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLES

S. Miller stated that members of the public wished to have public input on the warrant articles. He reviewed the following articles and recommendations:

1. Police Cruiser \$28,300 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$30,100).
2. Police Building Capitol reserve \$40,000 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$30,000). Mr. Johnson, a member of the public, asked what this was for and S. Miller responded that this is to expand on the existing building.
3. Police Network Server \$10,544 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$0). Mr. Miller noted this was not a warrant article.
4. Pavement/Parking B&M Park \$25,000 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$25,000). Ms. Frye asked if this could be changed to state "Municipal Parking" since it was for the town employees.
5. Sidewalk Capitol Reserve \$10,000 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$10,000).
6. Town Hall Compact Vehicle \$10,000 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$10,000).
7. Landfill Closure Capital Reserve \$25,000 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$10,000).
8. Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve \$10,000 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$10,000).
9. Transfer Station Capital Reserve \$20,000 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$20,000).
10. Sewage/Septage System Capital Reserve \$25,000 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$0).
11. Beach Capital Reserve \$50,000 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$0).
12. Recreation Green Monster Fence \$13,600 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$10,000). S. Miller noted that some volunteers have come forward for this project, which will reduce the cost.
13. Building & Grounds Truck \$32,800 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$32,800).
14. Fire Ambulance \$139,000 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$139,000). A member of the public asked what this was for and S. Miller responded it was for the replacement of a truck.
15. Fire – Building Capitol Reserve \$50,000 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$30,000).

16. Rescue Truck Lease Payment \$50,142 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$50,541). A member of the public asked if this was for a new truck. S. Miller responded it was for an SUV type vehicle.
17. Fire Care #1 \$36,333 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$30,100).
18. Fire Pump Truck \$399,333 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$390,000). S. Miller confirmed this for a replacement truck.
19. Bay Fire Station Repairs \$5,000 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$0).
20. Highway Reconstruction Capital Reserve \$750,000 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$600,000).
21. Highway Truck \$172,000 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$172,000).
22. Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve \$10,000 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$10,000).
23. Highway Sand Shed \$10,000 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$0).
24. Dump Truck Body Replacement \$17,693 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$0).
25. Community Action Program \$8,160 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$8,160).
26. VNA Hospice \$13,153 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$13,153).
27. Youth Services Bureau \$19,635 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$19,635).
28. Community Health and Hospice \$5,100 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$5,100).
29. American Red Cross \$2,250 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$2,250).
30. Alton Community Services \$9,000 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$9,000).
31. Medication Bridge Prescription Program \$314 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$314).
32. New Beginnings \$1,500 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$1,500).
33. Genesis \$6,118 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$6,118).
34. Caregivers Transportation \$2,000 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$2,000).
35. CASA Special Advocates Children \$500 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$500). W. Curtin noted that programs such as this have been asked to submit an expense accountability report with their request for funds in the future.
36. Long Land Re-Purchase \$10,000 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$10,000) A member of the public asked what this is for and R. Bailey stated that it is for land that was wrongfully sold to an individual who cannot build on it.
37. Benefit Fund \$10,000 (Board of Selectmen recommends \$10,000).

The total is \$1,722,151.

There was no further public input.

R. Bailey presented the Default Budget of the Town, which is available to the public to review.

There were no further questions.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

L. Boyce motioned to adjourn and W. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, ED, PS, TN) The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2007 at PMHS at 1pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Krista A. Argiropolis, Recorder