

**Budget Committee Meeting**  
**APPROVED Minutes (approved 3/27/2019)**  
**January 9, 2019 @ 6:00 PM**  
**Heidke Room**  
**Alton Town Hall**  
**1 Monument Square, Alton, NH 03809**

1. Call to order at 6:00 pm by R. Nelson.
2. Roll Call:  
Roger Nelson, Chairman  
Greg Fuller, Member  
Beth Varney, Member  
Pat O'Brien, Member  
Karen Kharitonov, School Board Representative  
Reuben Wentworth, Selectmen Representative

Other Present:

Liz Dionne, Town Administrator  
Troy Neff, Town Finance Administrator

Absent:

David Hershey

3. Approval of Agenda  
MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Agenda as presented. Second by G. Fuller. No discussion. Motion passes with all in favor.
4. New Business – No new business.
5. Old Business  
A. Finalize Town Warrant Articles and Town Operating Budget before Public Hearing at 6:30

**Article 6: Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund, previously established in 2001. Said funds are recommended by leave employment with the Town of Alton, in accordance with the Town Personnel Policy. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund article seconded by P. O'Brien with all in favor. Motion passes 6-0.

**Article 7: Operating Budget**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$7,940,176.00? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$7,931,766.00, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Board of Selectmen or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen ( ) and the Budget Committee (4-2). (Majority vote required)

T. Neff, as requested by the Budget Committee, presented the Town of Alton Budget for 2019 with the 1.5% Merit raise for Town of Alton Employees in a worksheet with comparison showing the 2019 Variance with and without the Merit Raise.

MOTION by K. Kharitonov to approve the Town of Alton Budget totaling \$7,940,176 (Seven Million, Nine Hundred Forty Thousand, One Hundred Seventy-Six Dollars) which includes the 1.5% Merit Raise seconded by P. O'Brien. The vote was 4 approved, 2 opposed. No Discussion. Motion passes with 4-2.

**Article 8: Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1973. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-1) and by the Budget Committee (5-0-1) (Majority vote required) (CIP recommended)

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve article seconded by P. O'Brien. The vote was 5 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstention. No discussion. Motion passes 5-0-1.

**Article 9: Grounds and Maintenance Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Grounds and Maintenance Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing vehicles for the Grounds and Maintenance Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,500 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required) (CIP recommended)

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Grounds and Maintenance Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund article seconded by P. O'Brien with all in favor. No discussion. Motion passes 6-0

**Article 10: Highway Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$180,000 to be added to the Highway Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1981. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required) (CIP recommended)

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Highway Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund article seconded by P. O'Brien with all in favor. No discussion. Motion passes 6-0.

**Article 11: Bridge Construction Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Bridge Construction Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 1995. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required) (CIP recommended)

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Bridge Construction Capital Reserve Fund article seconded by G. Fuller with all in favor. No discussion. Motion passes 6-0.

**Article 12: Highway Building Improvements/Repairs Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Highway Building Improvements/Repairs Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2014. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required) (CIP recommended)

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Highway Building Improvements/Repairs Capital Reserve Fund seconded by P. O'Brien with all in favor. No discussion. Motion passes 6-0.

**Article 13: Rock and Asphalt Crushing Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Rock and Asphalt Crushing Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2017. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

*Rationale: This capital reserve fund was established to use rocks, gravel, recycled materials during road reconstruction and Town projects, and reuse on town roads and town properties resulting in a cost savings of approximately 40% rather than purchasing new material.*

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Rock and Asphalt Crushing Capital Reserve Fund article seconded by G. Fuller with all in favor. No discussion. Motion passes. 6-0.

**Article 14: Highway Sand Shed Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Highway Sand Shed Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2003. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required) (CIP recommended)

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Highway Sand Shed Capital Reserve Fund article seconded by P. O'Brien with all in favor. No discussion. Motion passes 6-0.

**Article 15: Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$29,000 to be added to the Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2010. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund article seconded by P. O'Brien with all in favor. No discussion. Motion passes 6-0.

**Article 16: LiveScan Fingerprinting System**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the purpose of purchasing a LiveScan fingerprinting system and three years of service and warranty for the Police Department. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the LiveScan Fingerprinting System article seconded by K. Kharitonov with all in favor. No discussion. Motion passes 6-0.

**Article 17: Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000 to be added to the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 1994. These funds are being used to deal with the contamination at the landfill and to meet the state regulatory requirements. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

*Rationale: This fund is required by the Department of Environmental Services to fund unexpected expenses such as new contamination, testing, additional monitoring wells, removal of monitoring wells, the Annual Report for Groundwater Management required by the Department of Environmental Services. 12-11-18: There is a new DES project manager and a possibility that once he reviews all of the data (comes up to speed) he may want an additional monitoring well installed on the property (former Dahl property). The detected arsenic concentration exceeds the Ambient Groundwater Quality Standard (AGQS) at both downgradient monitoring wells (MW-203 and MW-204). There is a possibility DES will be alright with the data because we don't see any other exceedances of the AGQS.*

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund article seconded by G. Fuller with all in favor. No discussion. Motion passes 6-0.

**Article 18: Town Hall Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,000 to be added to the Town Hall Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2011. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required) (CIP recommended)

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Town Hall Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund article seconded by B. Varney. Discussion: Question on how much is in this fund? Answer: under \$10,000. All in favor. Motion passes 6-0.

**Article 20: Water Bandstand Maintenance and Repair Capital Reserve**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) to be added to the Water Bandstand Maintenance and Repair Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2014. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (6-0). (Majority vote required)

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Water Bandstand Maintenance and Repair Capital Reserve article seconded by P. O'Brien with all in favor. No discussion. Motion passes 6-0.

**Article 21: Alton Community Services Nonprofit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of supporting the Alton Community Services which provides a food pantry and assistance programs for fuel, prescriptions, utilities and housing in close coordination with the Alton Welfare Department. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0-1) and the Budget Committee (3-2-1). (Majority vote required)

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Alton Community Services Nonprofit article seconded by P. O'Brien. The vote was 3 approved, 2 opposed, 1 abstention. No discussion. Motion passes 3-2-1.

**Article 22: American Red Cross Nonprofit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 for the purpose of supporting the American Red Cross which provides disaster relief, shelters, basic household necessities and counseling. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) Not recommended by the Budget Committee (3-3). (Majority vote required)

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the American Red Cross Nonprofit article seconded by R. Wentworth. The vote was 3 approved, 3 opposed. No discussion. Motion fails 3-3.

**Article 23: CAP Nonprofit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of supporting the Community Action Program which provides supplemental food, fuel, utility, transportation, meals on wheels, weatherization assistance and Women, Infants & Children food assistance program (WIC). This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0) and the Budget Committee (4-2). (Majority vote required)

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the CAP Nonprofit article seconded by K. Kharitonov. The vote was 4 approved, 2 opposed. No discussion. Motion passes 4-2.

**Article 24: Caregivers of Southern Carroll County and Vicinity Nonprofit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 for the purpose of supporting Caregivers of Southern Carroll County & Vicinity, Inc. (includes Alton) which provides free transportation to handicapped, elderly and other residents needing assistance with all these services provided by volunteers. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (3-3). (Majority vote required)

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Caregivers of Southern Carroll County and Vicinity Nonprofit article seconded by G. Fuller. The vote was 3 approved, 3 opposed. No discussion. Motion fails. 3-3.

**Article 25: CASA Nonprofit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for the purpose of supporting CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) which provides advocacy for abused and neglected children. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (4-2). (Majority vote required)

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the CASA Nonprofit article seconded by R. Wentworth. The vote was 4 approved, 2 opposed. Motion passes 4-2.

**Article 26: Central NH VNA & Hospice Nonprofit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 for the purpose of supporting the Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice which is a non-profit agency that provides health care, hospice care and maternal child health services. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (4-2). (Majority vote required)

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Central NH VNA & Hospice Nonprofit article seconded by K. Kharitonov. The vote was 4 approved, 2 opposed. No discussion. Motion passes 4-2.

**Article 27: Child & Family Services Nonprofit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for the purpose of supporting Child and Family Services of NH. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (3-3). (Majority vote required)

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Child & Family Services Nonprofit article seconded by K. Kharitonov. The vote was 3 approved, 3 opposed. No discussion. Motion fails 3-3.

**Article 28: Lakes Region Mental Health Nonprofit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,750 for the purpose of supporting Lakes Region Mental Health Center which provides mental health care to area residents, services for children, elders, along with other emergency services. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (3-3). (Majority vote required)

MOTION by R. Nelson not to approve the Lakes Region Mental Health Nonprofit article seconded by K. Kharitonov. The vote was 3 approved, 3 opposed. No discussion. Motion fails 3-3.

**Article 29: L.I.F.E. Ministries Nonprofit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum \$3,000 for the purpose of supporting L.I.F.E. Ministries, Inc. which is a not-for-profit charity that provides food and staples to Alton residents. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (2-1-1). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (3-2-1). (Majority vote required)

MOTION by R. Nelson not to approve the L.I.F.E. Ministries Nonprofit article seconded by G. Fuller. The vote was 3 opposed, 2 approved, 1 abstention. No discussion. Motion fails 3-2-1.

**Article 30: New Beginnings Nonprofit**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,575 for the purpose of supporting New Beginnings which provides 24-hour crisis support for domestic/sexual assault victims, operates a shelter and provides counseling. This is a special warrant article. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-1) and the Budget Committee (4-2). (Majority vote required)

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the New Beginnings Nonprofit article seconded by K. Kharitonov. The vote was 4 approved, 2 opposed. No discussion. Motion passes 4-2.

**Article 33: Increase Veterans Property Tax Credit**

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to RSA 72:28 I, to increase the Veterans Property Tax credit from \$500 annually to \$750. No taxpayer funds are requested for this article. (Majority vote required) **This is a petition article.**

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Increase Veterans Property Tax Credit article seconded by B. Varney. The vote was 4 approved, 2 opposed. No discussion. Motion passes 4-2.

**Article 34: Jones Field Recreation Area**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to upgrade and expand safety netting and fencing at the Jones Field Recreation Area. (Majority vote required) **This is a petition article.**

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Jones Field Recreation Area article seconded by K. Kharitonov, Discussion. \$50,000 approved last year. Not all work completed, money returned to General Fund. The vote was all in favor. Motion passes 6-0.

**Article 32: Highway Road Construction** (waiting on certification)

We, the undersigned voters ask that the Town of Alton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$950,000.00 to be added to the Highway Construction Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1998. Said amount is partially offset by revenues from the Highway Block Grant Fund estimated to be \$198,000.00. This is an annual appropriation that provides for the reconstruction of existing roadways. Not recommended by the Budget Committee (3-2-1). (Majority vote is required) **This is a petition article.**

MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the Highway Road Construction article seconded by P. O'Brien. The vote was 3 opposed, 2 approved, 1 abstention. No discussion. Motion fails 3-2-1.

6. Public Input. None seen or heard. Public input closed.
7. Other Business (if necessary) None.
8. Recess at 6:30 pm. MOTION by R. Nelson to recess and move to the Public Hearing scheduled upstairs at 6:30 pm seconded by R. Wentworth with all in favor. No discussion. Motion passes.

*Note: R. Nelson stated that the meeting needed to reconvene at 8:32 pm to adjourn the 6:00 pm meeting.*

*MOTION by R. Nelson to adjourn at 8:32 pm seconded by D. Hershey with all in favor. No discussion. Motion passes 6-0.*

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Schaeffner  
Recording Secretary