

Budget Committee Meeting
APPROVED Minutes (approved 6/26/2019)
March 27, 2019
Alton Town Hall, 1 Monument Square,
Alton, NH 03809

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call

Present: Roger Nelson
Beth Varney
Bob Holt
Patrick O'Brien
David Hershey

Absent:
Karen Kharitinov, School Representative
Reuben Wentworth, Selectmen Representative

R. Nelson - 5th year being on the board and last 3 years being chairman and does not want to be chairman.

B. Holt asked if he would be Vice Chairman

R. Nelson, asks for Nominations from the floor.

Discussion with David Hershey, Patrick O'Brien, Patrick feels he is not experienced on the board yet. Patrick would consider vice chair. More discussion.

MOTION by R. Nelson to nominate Patrick O'Brien as chairman of the Budget Committee. Second by B. Holt. Discussion - R. Nelson stated did not nominate D. Hershey is out of town a lot. D. Hershey nominated R. Nelson but he refused. Call for a vote. 4 yes, 1 abstain. Motion passes.

MOTION by R. Nelson to nominate David Hershey as Vice Chairman. Second by B. Varney. No discussion All in favor. Motion passes.

Reorganization of the Board
To appoint

Patrick O'Brien Chairman

David Hershey, Vice Chairman

4. Approval of Agenda

5. Approval of Minutes

January 9, 2019, at 6 p.m. MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the minutes of January 9, 2019 at 6 p.m. as presented. Second by P. O'Brien. No discussion. 3 yes, 2 abstention. Motion passes.

January 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. Public Hearing MOTION by R. Nelson to approve the minutes of January 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. as presented. Second by D. Hershey. No discussion. 3 yes, 2 abstention. Motion passes.

6. Old Business

R. Nelson - Noted Financial report for end of year 2018 shows substantial balance left over \$300,000 to \$400,000. Discussion of departments that returned and departments that overspent.

7. New Business - Patrick O'Brien taking over as chairman.

a. Discussion on Future Meeting Dates. R. Nelson noted that having meetings monthly there is not a lot to discuss. D. Hershey suggested some strategy meetings, meeting with CIP members, P O'Brien suggested to assign a department to a member and also when getting budgets - getting explanations on department head positions for changes, additions, etc. R. Nelson suggested members to pick up the budget books when available and start working on the book as it is updated. R. Nelson will continue to do his research on 5-year comparisons. P. O'Brien suggests meeting in May for a strategy meeting. Discussion on Wednesdays at 6:30. P. O'Brien will get with Mary Jarvis and check the town calendar.

R. Nelson discussion when one department asks for more than another. Suggest working with CIP with possible numbers.

D. Hershey noted continuing to work on the survey with other towns on employee wages, benefits, etc. May have a full draft available at the next meeting.

General discussion on the non-profits, welfare healthcare benefits. Nonprofits going to towns and then the county. Discussion on the nonprofits and the approval/eligibility process with the town to become a warrant article. Discussion that this gets approved by the Selectmen. Discussion on Elections and registrations - not knowing this is a paid position

Next meeting - strategy, P. O'Brien to send out a list for members to select what department they would like to be assigned to. Next meeting May 15 and May 29 at 6:30 pm if works out with town calendar.

8. Public Input (*subject matter - agenda items only*)

Loring Carr - thank Roger Nelson for his hard work. Appreciate his work. Noting the Default Budget is not correct (has Colas in it), Stated the voters are voting on incorrect numbers and feels the Budget Committee should check into that the default budget has incorrect numbers. Feels he has not been listened to. Budget Committee does have authority if things are being done incorrectly. D. Hershey asked what the next step would be to begin to correct this. Loring stated the attorney is not the town attorney - he is the selectmen attorney. They are not there for getting a neutral opinion. Referred an article written by Town and City Municipal Association in November and December that is available on the internet. B. Varney looked up article and will send to Mary Jarvis to distribute. B. Varney will contact Quail Johnson to come and speak with the Budget Committee at an upcoming meeting.

9. Other Business. None.

10. Adjourn. MOTION by D. Hershey to adjourn at 7:40 pm. Second by B. Holt. No discussion. Motion passes with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Schaeffner, Recording Secretary