

Town of Alton
Budget Committee Meeting
September 10, 2013
Minutes
Approved October 9, 2013

Call to Order 7:00 pm

Roll Call

John Markland, Member
Robert Daniels, Selectmen's Representative
Lawrence Tilly, Vice Chairman
Andy McLeod, Chairman
Krista Argiropolis, School Department Representative
Ruth Messier, Member

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Input
None
Public Input Closed

Approval of Agenda

A McLeod moved to add the review of meeting minutes and was seconded by K. Argiropolis.

K. Argiropolis motioned to approve the agenda as amended and was seconded by R. Messier with all in favor.

K. Arigiropolis and R. Messier have asked for a format change to the minutes going forward to include a header and date added to each page.

K. Argiropolis motioned to approve the minutes of June 26, 2013 as presented and was seconded by R. Messier and passed with all in favor.

Re-opened the approval of agenda and added New Member under Old Business.

New Business

School Financials

R. Messier and J. Markland have requested hard copies of the expenditure reports going forward. These will be printed and placed in the Budget Committee mail slot for their pick up.

SAU 72 and Prospect Mountain

K. Argiropolis presented responses to questions raised at the June 26, 2013 meeting by R. Messier.

R. Messier would like clarification on how strict the statute is regarding student bussing to the taxpayers. There was a discussion on how other school districts handle bussing and towns where parents are asked to contribute.

The School Department expenditure reports were provided to the Committee members by K. Argiropolis and there was a discussion on various line items.

A. McLeod asked for an accounting of projects completed at the school this past summer with R. Messier requesting what accounts the funds were taken from. K. Argiropolis will provide the information at the next Budget Committee meeting.

Town Financials

R. Messier stated she has a concern with zero line item budgets. This concern will be addressed at a future meeting with the Town Administrator.

At 7:30 pm Town Administrator R. Bailey joined the meeting.

Meeting Schedule

R. Bailey presented the Committee with a proposed 2014 Budget Committee Meeting Schedule.

Discussion

It was agreed that the times for the remaining budget meetings will be changed from 7:00pm to 6:30pm for the meetings going forward.

K. Argiropolis stated some of the dates conflicted with School Board meetings.

R. Bailey provided the Committee with a handout of the fuel and electricity bids. The low bidder for heating oil was Fred Fueller at \$3.19 a gallon and the low bidder for propane was Eastern Propane at \$1.87. State pumps are used for gasoline.

R. Bailey stated that there is an anticipated increase in electric costs coming in November and at this time it is not known how much the increase will be. The previous increase was 3.3%. There was a discussion on using a discount electric company.

K. Argiropolis has a conflict with the tentative scheduled date of November 5, 2013 and this will be rescheduled to November 6, 2013. The schedule will be adjusted as follows: November 7th will change from School to Open, November 26th will change from PMHS to School, and December 3rd will change to CIP/Warrant Issues. The schedule will be revised and a final copy provided to the Budget Committee members by R. Bailey at the next meeting.

There was a discussion on the Town expenditures to date and R. Bailey provided an explanation for the Highway over expenditures.

Public Input II

None

Public Input II Closed

Old Business

New Member

There was a discussion on soliciting for the vacant Budget Committee seat.

L. Tilly motioned to continue the search and to advertise for a new Budget Committee member for 10 days and was seconded by A. McLeod.

Discussion

It was suggested to place a press release in the paper to avoid the cost of running an additional ad and to re-post on the Town's website.

L. Tilly amended his motion to change from advertisement to press release and was seconded by R. Messier and passed with a vote of four in favor and two against (JM and RD).

K. Argiropolis motioned to adjourn and was seconded by R. Messier with all in favor.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,



Peggy Hawksley
Budget Committee Secretary

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Next meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2013 at 6:30pm.