

Town of Alton

Budget Committee Meeting
Minutes

APPROVED

November 14, 2006

Present: Stephen Miller; William Curtin; Elizabeth Dominick; Laurie Boyce;
Virgil MacDonald; Terri Noyes (ACS Board Rep.),
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator; Members of the Public

Absent: Steven McMahon (Selectmen's Rep.); Krista Argiropolis, Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. McMahon was absent due to other obligations.

(SM, VM, WC, LB, ED, TN / absent - SMc)

III. CORRESPONDANCE

There was no correspondence.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – November 9, 2006

The minutes of November 9, 2006 were reviewed.

The following items were added or amended in the minutes because of a problem with the recording:

- Ms. Dominick motioned to increase the proposed budget line item for Dues and Fees (4550-111; \$154) to \$340 and Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, SMc, TN, ED, VM)
- Mr. McMahon motioned to increase the proposed budget line item for Books and Materials (4550-135; \$8,500) to 10,000 and Mr. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed with two abstentions (yes – LB, WC, LD VM, SMc / abstain – TN, SM)
- Mr. Miller motioned to increase the proposed budget line item for Water (4550-305; \$300) to \$1,000 and Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, SMc, TN, ED, VM)

- Mr. Curtin motioned to accept the amended budget for the Gilman Library (4550) at \$108,429 and Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. (SM, WC, LB, SMc, TN, ED, VM)
- Mr. Miller motioned to reduce the proposed budget line item for Meeting/Conferences (4520-110; \$940) to \$500 and Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of six. (no – SMc / yes - WC, LB, SM, TN, ED, VM)
- Mrs. Boyce motioned to accept the amended proposed budget for Parks and Recreation (4520) at \$76,379 and Mr. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of five. (no – SMc, SM / yes - WC, LB, TN, ED, VM)
- Mr. Miller motioned to decrease the proposed budget line item for Benefit Buy Out (4194-029; \$1,492) to \$1,000 and Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of six. (yes – SM WC, LB, TN, ED, VM / no - SMc)
- Mr. Miller motioned to decrease the proposed budget line item for Uniforms (4191-206; \$900) to \$450 and Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of five. (yes – SM WC, LB, ED, VM / no – SMc, TN)
- Mr. Miller motioned to decrease the proposed budget line item for Jones Field (4194-599; \$3,284) to \$1,000, and Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Mr. Miller stated he wanted that placed before the people as a warrant article in excess of \$10,000. The motion failed. (yes – SM / no - WC, LB, SMc, TN, ED, VM)
- Mr. Miller motioned to reduce the proposed budget line item for Railroad Square Park (4194-759; \$8,532) by \$156 and Ms. Dominick seconded the motion. The motion passed (yes – SM WC, LB, TN, ED, VM / no - SMc)
- Ms. Noyce motioned to accept the amended proposed budget for Grounds and Maintenance (4194) at \$189,721 and Mr. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote (SM WC, LB, TN, ED, VM, SMc)

Two typographical errors were also noted.

Mrs. Boyce motioned to accept the amended minutes of November 9, 2006 and Mr. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (SM, VM, WC, LB, ED, TN / absent - SMc)

V. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Noyes asked if there were any recording devices owned by the town that could be used. She suggested that the town purchase iPods to be used, similar to the equipment used by Ms. Argiropolis. She felt that since Ms. Argiropolis did meeting minutes for other committees and boards that her personal equipment should not be used, but that the town should have several of them.

There was no other old business.

VI. TOWN CLERK – Lisa Waterman

Ms. Waterman presented the proposed budget for the Town Clerk (4132). The Committee reviewed the proposed budget by each line item. There was a discussion about the revenue accounts that the town has and Mr. Bailey confirmed that motor vehicles brings in the greatest revenues. There were no other questions .

VII. ELECTIONS – Lisa Waterman

Ms. Waterman presented the proposed budget for Elections (4140), The Committee reviewed the proposed budget by each line item. Mr. Bailey stated that the State of New Hampshire has revised how they receive voting data. The Elections Department is asking to purchase a laptop computer. There was a discussion about the practices of the elections. All areas were felt to be covered.

VIII. CODE OFFICIAL/BUILDING INSPECTOR – Brian Boyers

Mr. Boyers presented the proposed budget for Code Official/Building Inspector (4192).

There was a discussion about the salary, including steps and cost of living increases proposed in the budget. Mr. Boyers stated that the increase was to bring his salary in line with the rest of the towns in the area. The Committee discussed the Selectmen's rational in suggesting that Mr. Boyers's salary should be \$46,669, as he had requested \$49,551.

IX. ASSESSING – Tom Sargent

Mr. Sargent explained that there would be increases in salary, travel/mileage, and contracted services. Mr. Sargent presented the budget for the Assessing Department. Mr. Sargent is now the only full-time employee in the office and has two part-time employees in the office.

There was a review of the contracted services line item. The proposed amount was \$87,275 and the Selectmen proposed \$42,275. Mr. Sargent stated he wanted to complete the measured assessment in one year. The Selectmen felt it should be done over two years. This practice is supposed to be done every five years; it has been twelve years since it was last done by Alton.

X. CONSERVATION COMMISSION – Russ Bailey

Mr. Bailey presented the proposed budget for the Conservation Commission. This is a volunteer group, working in conjunction with other town's conservation commissions and other organizations to monitor Lake Winnepesaukee in the Alton. The Committee reviewed the budget by each line item. There were no questions.

XI. Budget Committee's Vote on Proposed Budgets Presented

Town Clerk (4132):

Mrs. Boyce motioned to approved the proposed budget for the Town Clerk (4132) at \$77,828 and Mr. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (SM, VM, WC, LB, ED, TN / absent - SMc)

Elections (4140):

Mr. Curtin motioned to accept the Selectmen's recommendation for Computer Expense (4140-162; \$150) at \$1,600 and Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (SM, VM, WC, LB, ED, TN / absent - SMc)

Mr. Curtin motioned to accept the Elections (4140) proposed budget at \$9,145 and Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (SM, VM, WC, LB, ED, TN / absent - SMc)

Code Official/Building Inspector (4192):

Mr. Curtin motioned to accept the CO/BI Salary (4192-011; \$49,511) at \$49,511 and Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion failed. Mr. Miller motioned to accept the CO/BI Salary at the Selectmen's recommendation \$46,669 and Ms. Dominick seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. McDonald motioned to increase the CO/BI Part Time Code Official (4192-007; \$1) to \$17,072 and Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion failed.

Mrs. Boyce motioned to accept the Selectmen's proposed line item for Meetings/Conferences (4192-110; \$1,395) and Mr. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed. (SM, WC, LB, ED, TN / no – VM / absent - SMc)

Mrs. Boyce motioned to accept the Selectmen's proposed line item for Overtime Wages (4192-020; \$1) at \$600 and Mr. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed. (SM, WC, LB, ED, TN / no – VM / absent - SMc)

Mrs. Boyce motioned to accept the proposed budget for the Code Official/Building Inspector at \$83,137 and Ms. Dominick seconded the motion. The motion passed. (SM, LB, ED, TN / no – WC, VM / absent - SMc)

Assessing (4193):

Mr. Curtin motioned to accept the proposed Assessors Salary (4193-001; \$58,527) at \$58,526, due to a calculation error, and Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion passed. (SM, LB, ED, TN, WC / no – VM / absent - SMc)

Mr. Curtin motioned to decrease the proposed line item for Full Time Office (4193-010; \$27,038) to \$1 and Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (SM, VM, WC, LB, ED, TN / absent - SMc)

Mr. Curtin motioned to increase the proposed line item for Part Time Office Wage (4193-015; \$14,333) to \$41,370 and Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (SM, VM, WC, LB, ED, TN / absent - SMc)

Mrs. Boyce motioned to accept the Selectmen's proposed line item for Contracted Services (4193-184; \$87,275) at \$42,275 and Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Mr. Miller brought up the vote but Mr. McDonald asked for discussion. ****The vote was not completed.****

Mrs. Boyce motioned to accept the amended proposed budget at Assessing (4193) \$153,272 and Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (SM, VM, WC, LB, ED, TN / absent - SMC)

Conservation Commission (4612):

Mrs. Boyce motioned to accept the proposed Conservation Commission budget \$3,443 and Mr. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (SM, VM, WC, LB, ED, TN / absent - SMC)

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McDonald distributed a copy of the Alton Police Chief's contract. There was a discussion about the terms of the contract. It was felt that it would be best to review the document.

XIII. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

XIV. AJOURNMENT

Mrs. Boyce motioned to adjourn and Mr. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (SM, VM, WC, LB, ED, TN / absent - SMC)

Mrs. Boyce stated she would not be able to attend the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2006 at 6pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Krista A. Argiropolis
Keeper and Transcriber of Minutes