

TOWN OF ALTON

Alton Budget Committee Public Minutes

(APPROVED 01/09/08)

December 11, 2007

Members Present: Steve Miller, Chair
Gregory Fuller
Elizabeth Dominick
Richard MacDonald
Karen Painter
Jeffrey St. Cyr, Alton School Board Representative
Peter Bolster, Alton Selectmen Representative

Others Present: Russ Bailey, Town Administrator
Terri Noyes, Alton School Board Chair
Kathleen Holt, Superintendent
Kathy O'Blenes, Business Manager
Krista Argiropolis, Recorder
Members of the Public

I. CALL TO ORDER

S. Miller called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35PM.

II. ROLL CALL

R. MacDonald and G. Fuller were absent at the time of roll call. R. MacDonald entered the meeting at approximately 6:42PM. G. Fuller entered the meeting at approximately 7:00PM.

III. APPROVE AGENDA

K. Painter motioned to approve the agenda and P. Bolster seconded the motion. (SM, JS, KP, PB, ED / absent – GF, RM)

IV. HOUSEKEEPING

There were no minutes available for approval.

V. OLD BUSINESS
a. YOUTH SERVICES

S. Miller reported that the Town of Belmont had decided not to support Youth Services. Belmont had given \$30,000 in the past to Youth Services but a three-member board of the Belmont Board of Selectmen felt that the town already had programs in place that would meet their needs. S. Miller read an article that had been printed in The Laconia Daily Sun about the program. The article spoke about the Town of Belmont's truancy program and had stated that both the town and the school in Belmont had been approached for money.

P. Bolster asked R. Bailey to speak about the police department's truancy program. R. Bailey stated that the Police Chief had reported that they would need to have a warrant article about this and they had no issues with the Youth Services Program. He stated that the Selectmen had recommended the warrant article.

S. Miller asked if there was any money in the schools' budgets for the Youth Services Program. He noted they should bring it up when they meet with the JMA Budget Committee again. There was discussion about the support of the program and the services that it offers.

K. Painter offered to contact a member/officer of the Youth Services program to ask how they get their funding. S. Miller confirmed that she could do that and report back to the Committee.

P. Bolster spoke about the work that Dick Wallace, an Alton resident, did to help out with the children in the area. S. Miller asked him to find out how many children they helped and the number of hours they invested in the area.

J. St. Cyr asked S. Miller why he felt this shouldn't be put forward. S. Miller replied that there's a certain number of children they could handle and felt that there should be a threshold for bringing in a "consultant". J. St. Cyr felt they should be looking at the programs that Youth Services offered before looking at cutting the program or not recommending it. There was a discussion about the program and the justification for the request.

It was decided to table the Youth Services Program vote.

b. APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN TEEN PROJECT

There was a brief discussion about the Appalachian Mountain Teen Project (\$3,000). P. Bolster motioned to recommend the requested amount of \$3,000 and E. Dominick seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of five, with one "no vote, and one abstaining. (SM, PB, JS, ED, KP / abstain – RM / no – GF)

c. FOLLOW-UP MEETING SCHEDULED

A meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2007 at 6:30PM to complete the review of the town's budget.

VI. VOTE ON ACS BUDGET

GENERAL EDUCATION (1100)

Requested Amount: \$3,084,403

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$3,084,403

P. Bolster motioned to recommend the requested budget for General Education (1100) at \$3,084,403 and E. Dominick seconded the motion.

R. MacDonald asked about the budget line item for supplies and asked what the amount was based on. K. Holt responded that it was based on projected enrollment, at an increase of twenty-five more students. She stated that if they didn't budget for increased enrollment and more students enrolled in the school, then there would be a shortfall in this area. She spoke about the method they use to base their estimates on.

G. Fuller noted that if they adjusted this budget line item, consistently, then they would need to follow it through the rest of the budget. He stated it would be about \$1,000 for this budget line item, to adjust it appropriately.

K. Holt noted that there is nowhere else in the budget that they use this projection number like they do with this Supply budget line. She spoke about population trends. She stated that she had cut money out of other areas that the Committee did not see, because there were teachers who had extra in the budget and some teacher that did not budget enough. She noted that she had added some money into the Supplies budget line item to make up for those teachers who had not budgeted enough.

R. MacDonald asked for justification for the budget line item for English doubling. K. Holt responded that some of the penmanship materials had been moved into the English budget. R. MacDonald felt that a lot of classroom supplies were doubled and asked for justification for the increases. K. Holt spoke about the assessment required by NCLB for Science and felt that they had not been teaching Science the way it needed to be taught to be assessed. She spoke about some of the major changes in the lower elementary grades.

S. Miller asked if this year's budget was going to be over, under or flat. K. O'Blenes stated they hadn't done that but would be next month. She reported they came in at just over \$6,000 last year and reported they had come in over for the past few years.

R. MacDonald asked about the supplies that the teachers' needed for classroom supplies. K. Holt spoke about shared materials that teachers needed and some instances where a teacher might need additional supplies.

E. Dominick spoke about her concerns about the climbing wall that's been requested. She felt that it might have some liability concerns and spoke about possibly injuries that could result from having this equipment. R. MacDonald spoke about the climbing wall at the New Durham School and felt it was a very positive thing. S. Miller asked about the supervision needed for a climbing wall. K. Holt stated that for the money, this was not a multi-station climbing wall. S. Miller spoke about staffing issues that could come up with supervising the students on the climbing wall and those who were in the gym at the same time. There was a discussion about the use of the wall and supervision.

K. Painter asked why there would be a rock wall at the elementary school and not at the high school. J. St. Cyr stated it was something that he could look into.

R. MacDonald stated there was a place where there was additional enrollment in the budget but that the Superintendent had stated they had not budgeted the additional enrollment, like they had in the budget line item for Supplies. K. Holt explained that this is for class enrollment, not student population increases. She noted that some of the increases could be caused by a need to replace books or for other reasons. T. Noyes noted that they had always gone over budget in this area in the past, even with a decrease in the projected enrollment.

There was discussion about the previous year's budget for Science and the justification for the items requested. K. Holt spoke about some of the materials that the Science Department had requested. She stated that the Fourth Grade and Eighth Grade are assessed in the subject of Science per NCLB. She spoke about trends in increases in budget bid items, such as paper.

G. Fuller stated that salaries accounted for about two-thirds of the budget. K. Holt stated that because of the Master Agreement and the three new positions that were factored into the budget, that those things accounted for much of the budget increase. There was a discussion about the justification of the salaries of teachers.

S. Miller called the motion. The motion passed by a vote of five. (SM, JS, PB, GF, RM, KP / no - ED)

TECHNOLOGY (1140)

Requested Amount: \$223,139

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$219,819

There was discussion about the justification for the increase in the Technology Directory's salary.

E. Dominick asked about the LCD monitors that were being used and asked if there really was a cost-savings. There was discussion about the number of computers in the school.

S. Miller motioned to reduce the requested Technology budget by \$3,320 and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. S. Miller felt that where this salary had gone from approximately \$42,000 to \$54,000, that it would be \$62,000 the next year. K. Painter asked how much the salary would be for this position. K. Holt reported that the average

cost of this position in a school would be about \$52,000. P. Bolster stated that the director over this position, in Laconia, for example, would get quite a bit more. K. Holt spoke about some of the State's requirements for certain reports that are electronically sent to the State, that the Director is now responsible to send.

S. Miller called the question. K. Painter stated she still had questions. She asked what it would cost to fill this position if it should become vacant. K. Holt spoke about experience she had in Bow with the Technology Director. S. Miller felt that by recommending cutting this budget, that it would send a message. P. Bolster stated that the position had been radically changed and this was compensation for the increase in duties.

S. Miller called the vote. The motion passed by a vote of four. (SM, GF, RM, KP / no – ED, JS, PB)

S. Miller motioned to recommend the reduced Technology budget for FY 2009 at \$219,819 and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of five. (SM, GF, RM, KP, PB / no – ED, JS)

SPECIAL EDUCATION (1200)

Requested Amount: \$1,503,340

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$1,503,340

K. Painter motioned to recommend the requested budget for Special Education for FY 2009 at \$1,503,340 and E. Dominick seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of five. (SM, KP, PB, ED, JS / no – GF, RM)

GIFTED & TALENTED (1280)

Requested Amount: \$111,048

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$111,048

P. Bolster asked for an explanation for the increase in salaries. K. O'Blenes explained there was a change in personnel and someone had been hired for more money. T. Noyes noted that the G&T teacher did not all of the activities listed in the Gifted & Talented program but that some of the activities were stipend positions.

S. Miller asked about the hiring process for choosing a replacement for a position and the justification for the position vs. the previous position holder K. Holt felt that personnel issues should not be discussed at this level. There was discussion about the hiring process and some of the challenges that might come up in the process.

K. Painter motioned to recommend the requested amount for Gifted & Talented for FY 2009 at \$111,048 and E. Dominick seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, PB, ED, JS, GF, RM)

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (1410)

Requested Amount: \$28,216

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$28,216

E. Dominick motioned to recommend the requested amount for Co-Curricular Activities for FY 2009 at \$28,216 and K. Painter seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of six. (SM, KP, PB, ED, JS, GF / no - RM)

ATHLETICS (1420)

Requested Amount: \$44,556

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$44,556

E. Dominick motioned to recommend the requested amount for FY 2009 for Athletics at \$44,556 and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, PB, ED, JS, GF, RM)

SUMMER SCHOOL (1430)

Requested Amount: \$8,216

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$8,216

There was a brief discussion about the staffing for Summer School. E. Dominick motioned to recommend the requested amount for FY 2009 for Summer School at \$8,216 and G. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, PB, ED, JS, GF, RM)

GUIDANCE (2120)

Requested Amount: \$270,736

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$270,736

There was discussion about the justification for the new position that has been requested, as a Health teacher.

There was discussion about the technology used in the Guidance department. K. Holt spoke about some of the assessment tools that are being used now for Guidance.

S. Miller asked if there a poll done of the employees for Tuition Reimbursement to figure how much would be budgeted for Guidance. T. Noyes explained that Guidance are not in part of the collective bargaining unit. K. Holt responded that they did poll department members. There are two Guidance department members now and one open position.

R. MacDonald motioned to recommend the requested amount for FY 2009 for Guidance at \$270,736 and K. Painter seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, PB, ED, JS, GF, RM)

HEALTH SERVICES (2130)

Requested Amount: \$78,919

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$78,919

E. Dominick motioned to recommend the requested amount for FY 2009 for Health Services at \$78,919 and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, PB, ED, JS, GF, RM)

SPEECH SERVICES (2150)

Requested Amount: \$80,115

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$80,115

E. Dominick motioned to recommend the requested amount for FY 2009 for Speech Services at \$80,115 and R. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, PB, ED, JS, GF, RM)

IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCTION (2210)

Requested Amount: \$84,108

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$84,108

E. Dominick motioned to recommend the requested budget for FY 2009 for Improvement of Instruction at \$84,108 and K. Painter seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, PB, ED, JS, GF, RM)

LIBRARY & MEDIA (2220)

Requested Amount: \$124,125

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$124,125

E. Dominick motioned to recommend the requested budget for FY 2009 for Library and Media at \$124,125 and K. Painter seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, PB, ED, JS, GF, RM)

SCHOOL BOARD (2310)

Requested Amount: \$52,789

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$52,789

E. Dominick motioned to recommend the requested budget for FY 2009 for School Board at \$52,789 and K. Painter seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, PB, ED, JS, GF, RM)

S.A.U. EXPENSE (2320)

Requested Amount: \$269,630

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$269,630

P. Bolster motioned to recommend the requested budget for FY 2009 for S.A.U. Expense at \$269,630 and E. Dominick seconded the motion. P. Bolster spoke about the increase in this budget, which comes from other budget line items in the past. He asked if there was a way that the Business Manager could show where this had been moved from over the past two years.

R. MacDonald asked about the bottled gas that was now in the budget. K. O'Blenes stated that this had been in the Building & Grounds' budget in the past but really should be in the S.A.U.'s budget.

S. Miller asked why there was one superintendent over one principal for each of the two schools. T. Noyes stated that the Barnstead School Board had made it clear that they did not want a superintendent for both schools. J. St. Cyr noted that there was a State law that mandated superintendent services for schools with over three hundred students. There was discussion about the justification for the superintendent services for ACS and PMHS.

The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, PB, ED, JS, GF, RM)

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE (2410)

Requested Amount: \$301,237

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$301,237

E. Dominick motioned to recommend the requested budget for FY 2009 for Principal's Office at \$301,237 and K. Painter seconded the motion. S. Miller asked if the Principal

had a history of using the Tuition Reimbursement. K. Holt noted that the Principal was attending workshops. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, PB, ED, JS, GF, RM)

BUSINESS SERVICES (2510)

Requested Amount: \$103,980

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$103,980

E. Dominick motioned to recommend the requested budget for FY 2009 for Business Services at \$103,980 and K. Painter seconded the motion.

There was a discussion about the justification for the Business Manger's salary. K. Holt noted that there is a serious shortage of Business Managers in the state at this time. T. Noyes stated that there was a two-year agreement for bringing the Business Manager's salary up to industry standards.

G. Fuller asked S. Miller how he justified not cutting the salary for this budget, the way they had for Technology. K. O'Blenes noted that she did not have an assistant. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, PB, ED, JS, GF, RM)

BUILDING MAINTENANCE (2600)

Requested Amount: \$755,136

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$755,136

K. Painter motioned to recommend the requested budget for FY 2009 for Building Maintenance at \$755,136 and E. Dominick seconded the motion.

There was discussion about the new part-time position that has been requested. K. Holt spoke about some of the limits that the current staff would have if there were a flu outbreak. She noted that the Director of Buildings & Grounds had requested a full-time person but she had

The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, PB, ED, JS, GF, RM)

TRANSPORTATION (2700)

Requested Amount: \$451,931

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$451,931

E. Dominick motioned to recommend the requested amount for Transportation for FY 2009 at \$451,931 and K. Painter seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, PB, ED, JS, GF, RM)

DEBT SERVICE (5110)

Requested Amount: \$963,000

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$963,000

S. Miller called the Committee to vote their approval of Dept Services for FY 2009 at \$963,000. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, PB, ED, JS, GF, RM)

DEBT SERVICE (5120)

Requested Amount: \$212,342

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$212,342

S. Miller called the Committee to vote their approval of Dept Services for FY 2009 at \$212,342. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, PB, ED, JS, GF, RM)

PROSPECT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL (2330)

Requested Amount: \$3,474,783

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$3,474,783

The vote on this was tabled, pending review of the PMHS budget.

FEDERAL PROJECTS

Requested Amount: \$100,000

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$100,000

S. Miller called the Committee to vote their approval for Federal Projects for FY 2009 at \$100,000. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, PB, ED, JS, GF, RM)

WARRANT ARTICLES

The Committee decided to table their vote on the warrant articles, pending the wording of the articles.

TOTAL

The Committee decided to table their vote on the total of the budget, pending the budget for PMHS.

VII. AGENDA

E. Dominick motioned to adjourn and K. Painter seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (SM, KP, PB, ED, JS, GF, RM)

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Recorder, Public Sessions