

Alstead Advisory Budget Committee Minutes for the February 1, 2017 meeting

Members in attendance:

Chris Hansen
Marge Noonan
Carol Reller
Priscilla Sawa
Juliana Stevens
Sam Sutcliffe
Les Thomas
Barbara Viegener
Mary Ann Wolf

Also present:

Tim Noonan
Bobbie Wilson

Review agenda, minutes and action items from the last meeting:

The meeting minutes of January 18 were approved with corrections. (5/yes, 0/no, 4/abstentions).

Review of the 2017 budget and warrant articles

The articles for the police cruiser are based on a single quote. Two more quotes must be solicited (according to town policy) before the contract is signed. The decision to lease rather than to purchase is to make a test case for leasing vs. purchasing heavy equipment.

The quote for the wire for the cell tower is based on installing it on the ground, not on poles. The suggestion that it might need to be on poles came from DPW.

Carol moved that the committee not take a position on Article 2 for the Deliberative Session because there are too many unanswered questions. The motion passed 9/yes, 0/no, 0/abstentions.

Julie moved that the committee not take a position on any warrant article because we didn't receive information in a timely fashion. The motion passed 8/yes, 0/no, 1/abstentions.

We discussed how to present our positions (or lack thereof) at the Deliberative Session and decided that we would not make a general announcement about the lack of information, but instead we will address our position on individual warrants, if asked. We can each offer our individual opinions as long as we specify that the opinion is given as a taxpayer, not as a committee member.

Vilas Pool

Bobbie Wilson came to address the issue of why Vilas Pool needs town financial support for big projects, such as the dam and the bridge, given that the trust has substantial funds, including a CD worth \$52,000.

She does not know the amount of the principal in the trust, but is expecting to receive \$28,849.79 in interest in 2017. The trust is run by a trustee from the bank and can only be used – according to the will – for the pool, buildings, labor and music (entertainment). Here is her budget for 2017.

Income	
Checking account balance	\$ 2,627.93
Money Market fund	\$14,982.71
Interest on principal	\$28,849.79
Donations & parties	\$ 5,000.00
total	\$51,460.43
Expenses	
Payroll	\$36,349.79
Utilities/supplies	\$15,481.67
Plumbing upgrade	\$ 5000.00
Swimming dock	\$ 500.00
Table and chair upgrade	\$ 2000.00
total	\$59,331.46

There is a shortfall of \$7871.03 in the budget. The Vilas Pool committee would like to save the CD for emergencies and/or necessary repairs to the belltower. The committee's request for further funding from the town was denied.

Carol moved that we table this discussion and take up the issue of how AABC can assist in the flow of financial information between the town and the committee and facilitate decisions about financing. (8/yes, 0/no, 1/abstention).

Action items:

- Priscilla will find out how to post AABC minutes on the new website.

- Carol will ask Kelly for the latest version of the warrant.

Next meeting:

Next meeting is February 8 at the Town Offices.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Vote on the 2017 warrant articles.
- Conduct a post-mortem.
- Items from the punch list: budget review, town employee job descriptions, building maintenance, transfer station committee, CIP, and Bragg Lane.

Minutes submitted by Priscilla Sawa