

## Alstead Advisory Budget Committee Minutes for the January 28 meeting

### Members in attendance:

Dan Curll (on phone)  
Chris Hansen  
Carol Reller  
Chris Rietmann  
Donna Sabin  
Priscilla Sawa  
Juliana Stevens  
Sam Sutcliffe  
Les Thomas  
Jonathan Wildes  
Mary Ann Wolf

### Also present:

Susan Norlander

### Topics discussed:

- We received mail from Susan regarding the rules for moderating the deliberative session. Chris forwarded it to us shortly before the meeting.
- Regarding the COLA:
  - Donna has the latest figures from Linda for what was spent on wages in 2014. It still looks like the wages for at least one employee are not correct, and that perhaps one employee has already received a raise.
  - Susan would like us to present our three amendments as a single amendment. This would be a faster way to deal with the issues. We have to amend the budget as a whole; we can't specify in the amendment the departments or how the money would actually be spent, but we can explain during the discussion how we would like it to be spent.
  - We discussed whether we support a 3% COLA or a higher percent and whether we could specify in the amendment to fund the COLA from the fund balance.
  - We need to meet with the Select Board to find out how much a COLA would cost.
- The subcommittee reports have been posted on the website.
- There is a new warrant for the primary school sidewalk (\$25,000). That amount is a bid from a single vendor to create the design of the sidewalk only, no construction included. As a town, we should have a policy to get at least three bids on each project.

- The committee supports the draft FAQs.
- We discussed whether we want as a committee to post opinions on the web.
- We need to provide a blurb about AABC for the Annual Report.

#### **Motions:**

- The meeting minutes of January 21 were approved.
- Chris moved that we propose one amendment for DPW and welfare for \$40 and a second one for the COLA. Mary Ann seconded. (9 in favor, 2 opposed, no abstentions).
- Carol moved that we not support the new warrant article for a primary school sidewalk. (6 in favor, 1 opposed, 4 abstentions)

#### **Action items:**

- Donna and Mary Ann will send email to the SB with the questions we still have about the COLA. They will attend the Select Board meeting next Tuesday to hear the answers.
- Donna and Mary Ann will draft a written version of the COLA amendment.
- Priscilla and Mary Ann will edit the FAQs. Please send all changes to both.
- Priscilla will draft a written version of the DPW/Welfare amendment.
- Chris will pull together the blurb about AABC for the Annual Report.

#### **Next meeting:**

February 4 at 7:00 pm at the Town Offices.

#### **Agenda items for next AABC meeting:**

- Approve written versions of the two amendments.
- Approve final version of the FAQs

#### **Comments from the public:**

- None.