

**TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**Select Board**

**Approved Minutes for Public Hearing of the Budget and Meeting of January 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.  
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602**

To attend via Google Meet, access code is <https://meet.google.com/hnr-zuns-igp>

Conference call: (978) 990-5000, access code 539083#

**SELECT BOARD PRESENT:** Rock Wilson (in person); Mary Ann Wolf (on phone); Joe Levesque (in person)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Richard Berringer, Fire Dept. Member; Charlotte Comeau, Office Administrator; Jodi Kercewich, Transfer Station Supervisor; Kim Kercewich, Fire Chief; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent (in person);

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS:** Ben Duffy-Howard; Glenn Elsesser; Richard Nalevanko; Marge Noonan; Barbara Viegner (in person); Chris Hansen (on phone); Gordon Kemp; Joel McCarty; Judith Willis (on Google Meets)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Rock Wilson called the Public Hearing regarding the budget to order at 6:00 p.m.

**OPEN FORUM:** Rock said that he would read the budget totals and if there were any questions they could be asked:

Executive: \$75,102 – Increase of \$1,450 from last year's budget, no questions.

Town Clerk \$37,708 – increase of \$1,045 from last year's budget, no questions.

Election \$14,500 – decrease of \$6,124 from last year's budget, no questions.

Tax Collector \$40,970 – increase of \$860 from last year's budget, no questions.

Treasurer \$3,700 - same as last year's budget, no questions.

Auditors and Assessors \$30,500 decrease of \$19,500 from last year's budget (decrease due to last year reval. year was more), no questions.

Legal Fees \$7,500 – increase of \$1,500 from last year's budget, no questions.

Personnel Administration \$172,210.48 – increase of \$4,783.73 from last year's budget, no questions.

Planning & Zoning \$9,130 – increase of \$1,128 from last year's budget, no questions.

General Government \$148,303 – increase of \$97 from last year's budget, Glenn E asked what the surveying was for, Rock said it is for the piece of property is on Bly Rd that there is a question on whether it 5 acres or 20 acres.

Cemeteries \$26,723 – increase of \$1 from last year's budget, no questions.

Insurance \$20,261 – same as last year's budget, no questions.

Regional Associations \$3,756 – decrease of \$62.00, no questions

Police Dept. \$184,424 – increase of \$480 from last year's budget, no questions.

Ambulance Dept. \$47,802 – I increase of \$10,399 from last year's budget (\$5k is ½ the cost for an extractor under new equipment), Rich N. asked what the revenue was for the year, Jesse said it was around \$40,000.

Fire Dept. \$63,063 increase of \$501 from last year's budget (\$5k is ½ the cost for an extractor under new equipment)

Forest Fire Dept. \$8,950 – no increase from last year's budget, no questions.

Emergency Management \$27,738 – increase of 731 from last year's budget due to increase cost of dispatch, no questions

Communications (Cob Hill Tower) \$1 – decrease of \$599 from last year's budget, no questions.

DPW Admin. \$72,000 – increase of \$700 from last year's budget, no questions.

Highway & Streets \$399,503 – increase of \$2,500 from last year's budget, no questions.

Street lighting \$6,000 – same as last year's budget, no questions.

Sanitation Admin. \$55,390 – increase of \$17,349 (\$8k for 2 new dumpsters and increased wages in anticipation of approval of baler), some discussion took place on this.

SWD \$99,583 – decrease of \$15,626 from last year's budget, no questions.

Health Agencies \$15,255 – increase of \$862 from last year's budget, no questions.

Welfare \$5,330 – decrease of \$1,500 from last year's budget, no questions.

Parks & Recreation \$10,001 – decrease of \$299 from last year's budget, no questions.

Library Appropriation \$44,500 – same as last year's budget, no questions.

Patriotic Purposes \$1,601 – increase of 1,101 from last year's budget (need new flags for poles), no questions.

Conservation Commission \$1,051 – decrease of \$350 from last year's budget, no questions.

Dept Interest \$1,500 – decrease of \$1,500 from last year's budget

**Total proposed 2021 budget is \$1,634,128.48 a decrease of \$71.27 from last year's budget.**

**Article 01: Election of Officers:** To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

**Article 02: Operating Budget:** Totaling \$1,634,128 with a default budget of \$1,612,252

**Article 03: Paving Article:** Totaling \$220,000. \$150,000 is to come from fund balance. The additional \$70,000 is to be raised by taxation.

***Question was asked if he had quotes. He said he had 3.***

**Article 04: Fire Capital Reserve Fund:** Add \$45,000 is to be raised by taxation. ***(Rich N. asked what the balance was in this account Glenn had numbers from October which was around \$174k, some additional discussion took place).***

**Article 05: Highway Capital Reserve Fund:** Add 100,000 is to be raised by taxation. ***(Rich N. asked what the balance was in this account Glenn said \$226k plus or minus)***

**Article 06: Purchase a Ford F550 to replace the Ford F350** - \$10,000 is to be raised by taxation. The additional amount is to come from the Highway Capital Reserve Fund.

**Article 07: Add to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund** – Add \$150,000 is to come from unassigned fund balance. ***(Rich N. asked what the balance was in this account. Glenn said about \$290k)***

**Article 08: Add to the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund** – Add \$8,000 is to be raised by taxation. ***(Glenn said we have about \$20k in this account).***

**Article 09 Purchase a Baler and Equipment** – The sum of \$14,000 is to come from the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund.

**Article 10: Shedd-Porter Memorial Library Capital Reserve Fund** - Add \$10,000 is to be raised by taxation. ***(Glenn said we have about \$17k in this account) Joe mentioned that the next project on the list is the windows and going to try and get a grant for this.***

**Article 11: Police Capital Reserve Fund:** Add \$18,000 is to be raised by taxation. ***(Glenn said that we have about \$10k in the account).***

**Article 12: Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund** – Add \$27,000 is to be raised by taxation. ***(Glenn said we have about \$150k in the account).***

**Article 13: Digital Tax Map Data Conversion & GIS Development** – The sum of \$12,500 to come from unassigned fund balance. ***Some discussion took place on this. Charlotte mentioned that each year there will be an ongoing \$3k hosting fee for having this online.***

**Article 14: Modify Elderly Exemptions:** To increase the qualifying limits for elderly exemptions. ***Some discussion took place.***

**Article 15: Purchase a Side-by-Side Off-road Vehicle:** – The sum of \$28,000 for the purpose of purchasing a side-by-side off-road vehicle. The sum of 9,500 to be withdrawn from the Fire Dept. Capital Reserve Fund. The remaining \$18,500 to be provided from the Firefighters Association donation fund.

**Article 16: New Hampshire Resolution for Nonpartisan Fair Redistricting (By Petition)**

Rock adjourned the public hearing at 7:18 p.m.

Rock called the Select Board meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Rock led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Sign timber cut warrants, sign updated winter parking policy.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion took place on the SB report for the town report. All was fine with it.

Some discussion took place on options of where to hold the deliberative session now knowing Vilas gym capacity is 36 and can't accommodate an area for people who are not able to wear masks. Discussion took place on where to have it and if we have time to get a mailer out. Charlotte said we would if she gets the information soon. After much discussion it was decided to hold the deliberative session on Millot Green.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes of January 12, 2021: On a motion by Mary Ann, seconded by Joe; ***the Board voted to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.***

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**INFORMATIONAL:** Public Hearing on the Winter Parking and snow in right of way ordinance January 26, 2021, 6:00 at the Town Hall.

On a motion by Mary Ann, seconded by Joe; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte Comeau, Office Administrator

The next meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> after the Public Hearing.