

Alstead Advisory Budget Committee Meeting March 2, 2016

Members present:

Carol Reller, Chris Hansen, Donna Sabin, Sam Sutcliffe, Mary Ann Wolf
Glenn Elsesser, Juliana Stevens, Marge Noonan

Also present:

Michael Gordon

Minutes of previous meeting reviewed and approved. (7/yes, 0/no/ 1 abstention)

Quarterly report:

Quarterly report reviewed, changes accepted and approved. This will be sent with the Selectmen's mailing. (8/yes)

School Board warrant article #9:

The selectmen asked the Budget Committee to submit an opinion on the article, which was opposed by the School Board. Charlestown had submitted the article by petition with no input from other towns.

Chris moved to not make a motion on recommendation, motion passed; (4/yes, 3 no, 1 abstention. Sam then moved to canvas the group for opinions, motion passed; opinion was 0/yes, 7/no, 1 abstention and this was forwarded to the Selectmen.

Review of Select Board meeting:

Glenn brought up OT being paid to highway department considering the mild winter. Select Board did not express an opinion and it was felt this would be addressed by the new selectmen after the election.

Welfare rents are lower this year. The selectmen have instituted a policy that if a landlord owed back taxes and had residents supported by the town, the rent would be applied to the back taxes. This, along with some residents moving out of town has helped lower welfare costs.

Police Department has hired another officer, Adam Howard, a resident of the town who met all the qualifications. He has been working with Roger for the past week but will soon be on his own. This will help with OT in the police department.

N.H. Fire Academy has instituted a policy of trainees for certain classes having a physical to show they are able to take part in classes deemed "strenuous". The first physical cost was \$800, which will affect the fire department budget if more are required. The doctor must fill out a form required by the Fire Academy. The EMSG will help the FD look for more cost effective care.

A letter of explanation concerning the new fire truck warrant article will be sent with the selectmen's mailing.

Review of punch list:

Emergency Management report; there is no community organization yet, no additional back-up for the director.

Stipends and mileage re-imbursement policy has been done.

Opt out policy for medical insurance needs review and to get industry standards.

Review building maintenance list. Still waiting for estimate on fire station door and a list of routine planned maintenance.

No action on CIP.

Transfer station still running half empty containers and now need to find a place for tin cans and metal because the contractor used for disposal closed their doors.

Job descriptions, reviews and HR policies are not complete.

Possible Punch List goals:

Cemetery trust – Money from the previous years income may require going to Probate Court and making request to access. Currently \$435,000 in principal, approximately \$40,000 in accumulated income.

Monthly quarterly review of budget vs. last year; will be handled by Glenn and Donna.

Fund balance calculation from previous year waiting on auditors report.

CIP to be discussed with planning board and selectmen.

Building maintenance to be followed up.

Vehicle and equipment maintenance; better logs and lists for evaluation of the actual cost of ownership.

Transfer station reviewed as to cost and possibility of contract with other towns regarding disposal.

The AABC will come up with some recommendations regarding punch list and meet with the new selectmen at some point in April. No new business.

Next meeting will be March 23 at 6:30 then 2nd and 4th week of each month. Meeting adjourned 8:10.

Minutes submitted by Marge Noonan.

