

Alstead Advisory Budget Committee Minutes for the August 12, 2015 meeting

Members in attendance:

Bonnie Chase
Glenn Elsesser
Chris Hansen
Carol Reller
Donna Sabin
Priscilla Sawa
Nick Sintros
Juliana Stevens
Sam Sutcliffe
Mary Ann Wolf

Also present:

Marge Noonan
Chris Rietmann

Topics discussed:

- Donna received additional information from the town and the discrepancy in the trust fund reports was eliminated.
- Some of the notifications of the new assessments were sent to the wrong address.
- Julie's contact in the State Department is looking for a contact in the DRA to help us with software options. The vendors will be at the annual meeting of Town Clerks.

Select Board meeting:

- Money from the Police budget will be spent on surveillance cameras and signs, such as "Travel at your own risk" on grade 6 roads. Fish and Game licenses the vehicles that can travel those, but has informed us that they will no longer police these roads. The town doesn't appear to be liable for accidents on these roads unless the town maintains them. (We currently don't maintain them.)
- We are considering consolidating the Town Internet accounts (library, offices and fire station).
- A resident has started broadcasting the Select Board meetings. (Any individual has the right to do this.)
- The Vilas Pool bridge inspection has happened, but the dredging has not.
- The start of the 2016 budget process has been delayed.

DPW subcommittee:

- The committee hasn't met yet.
- Glenn has found out that two-thirds of the bus routes are on state roads. This might mean that we could economize on early-morning snow plowing.
- The compactor is still not functioning properly, but there has been no progress on repairs.

EMSG subcommittee:

- The committee is looking into what structural changes will need to be made to the Village Station to accommodate a new engine.
- Carol is networking with firemen in this town and surrounding towns and also researching various options for replacing our aging equipment.

HR subcommittee:

- The committee is still working on benchmarking wages and benefit packages with other towns.

General Government subcommittee:

- The committee hasn't met yet.

Quarterly Report subcommittee:

- New assessments are down by 8%. This means that the tax rate will have to rise in order to maintain the current tax revenue. Other factors that impact the tax rate are unknown at this point, such as county and school budgets, other revenue, state grants, and so forth.
- We recommended that the Third Quarter report focus on explaining the implications of the assessments, while postponing any predictions about the tax rate until the final quarter.

Financial Planning/Tools subcommittees:

- Glenn has a draft of the Capital Improvement plan.
- Priscilla has a draft of the Historical Trends report.

Motions:

- The meeting minutes of July 22 were approved (yes/10, no/0, abstentions/0).
- We agreed to meet weekly starting on September 2 (yes/9, no/0, abstentions/1).

Action items:

- The QR subcommittee will present a draft of the Q3 report at the next meeting.

Next meeting:

August 26 at 7:00 pm at the Town Offices. **Our meetings now appear on the Town Calendar accessible from alsteadnh.org.**

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Review the first draft of the Q3 report.
- Subcommittee reports.
- Jonathan will find out from two OLAP software companies the price of their baseline software package.
- Juliana will ask her contact in the State Department if there is an accounting guru who could consult with us about software tools options.

Comments from the public:

- None.