

Alstead Advisory Budget Committee Minutes for the December 2, 2015 meeting

Members in attendance:

Bonnie Chase
Chris Hansen
Carol Reller
Donna Sabin
Priscilla Sawa
Nick Sintros
Sam Sutcliffe
Les Thomas

Also present:

Michael Gordon
Joel McCarty

Select Board:

No further changes are expected to the ambulance budget. On the revenue side, the Select Board approved the use of the standard fees covered by Medicare for ambulance service. The revenue will rise accordingly.

The only expected change to the police budget is that the amount that will be paid to Troop C for coverage will be broken out in a separate line. The Selectmen plan to hire a second patrol officer and to keep Marcello on for a few hours a week.

No budgets yet for tax collector, town clerk, cemeteries, emergency management, and conservation.

The Article 2 Wage adjustments are taking form. We reviewed a draft list of proposed adjustments.

We discussed briefly three new articles added to Joel's draft list of warrant articles:

- To make repairs to the stone walls at Millot Green (\$5000).
- To design and specify replacements for the two red-listed bridges over Darby Brook (\$?)
- To permit the FMF/FM to build a 50' by 100' structure on the Bragg Lane property.

Also Article 15 was changed from repairing headstones and remove threatening trees in town cemeteries (\$3000) to making repairs to the stone walls at the town cemeteries (\$5000).

To facilitate making repairs and performing maintenance in a timely manner, the Selectmen have put out RFPs for carpentry and landscaping services. Chris H. recommended that this committee discuss whether to propose adding specific line items to the budget or a warrant article for building maintenance.

Gen Gov committee:

We briefly discussed Julianna's email about the town cellphones.

Quarterly Report committee:

Sam read a draft of the Q4 report.

EMSG committee:

The Selectmen have a job description for the patrol officer position, and will move quickly to post it.

HR committee:

Joel and Priscilla are starting to compile job descriptions for the staff required to support the Selectmen.

DPW committee:

Glenn raised the question of why we are paying overtime at this time of the year.

Financial Planning/Tools committee:

We will discuss the response from MuniSmart regarding report formats when Jonathan is present.

Other old business:

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Motions:

- The meeting minutes of Nov 18 were approved (5/yes, 0/no, 2/abstentions)
- We recommend that the funds necessary to enlarge the Village Station door be added to the Fire Department budget, instead of as a separate warrant article. (8/yes, 0/no, 0/abstentions)

Action items:

- Carol will check with Kim to find out the current wages for the FD employees and get back to Joel.
- Joel will take Julianna's recommendations regarding cellphones to the Select Board.
- Chris H. will forward Glenn's email response to Julianna's recommendations to Joel.

- Priscilla will send out Sam's draft and the committee will vote on it next week.
- Priscilla will ask Joel for the date of the NH town administrators meeting.
- Priscilla will post the updated punch list on the town website.

Next meeting:

Dec 9 at 6:30 pm at the Town Offices.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Approve the Q4 report.
- Discuss whether to add a warrant article or line items to the 2016 budget to specify recommended repairs.

Comments from the public:

- None.

Important dates

Jan 8: deadline for petitioned warrants

Jan 12: deadline for petitioned articles

Jan 12: budget hearing @ town offices

Feb 6: deliberative session @ Vilas gym

Mar 8: balloting @ town hall

Minutes submitted by Priscilla Sawa