

Alstead Advisory Budget Committee Minutes for the April 8 meeting

Members in attendance:

Bonnie Chase
Glenn Elsesser
Chris Hansen
Donna Sabin
Priscilla Sawa
Nick Sintros
Sam Sutcliffe
Jonathan Wildes
Mary Ann Wolf

Also present:

Chris Reitmann
Susan Norlander

Topics discussed:

- Nick, Bonnie, and Glenn were sworn in by the town moderator, Susan Norlander.
- Chris H. appointed Bonnie as a regular member tonight.
- Bids for the slate roof of the Historical Society building and the Vilas School parking lot projects took most of the time at the Select Board meeting last night. They accepted a bid from the Fuzzy Brothers for the Vilas School parking lot project.
- The SB meeting with the assessors will be next week at 5:00 pm. After that meeting, the regular meeting time will change to 6:00 pm.
- The Quarterly Report subcommittee presented a draft of the second quarter postcard. Sam researched the sources and amounts of town revenue and created a pie chart. There are a lot of ambiguities about revenue as reported in the town report. Hopefully these will be cleared up in the audit report, which was completed in March.
- The Financial Systems subcommittee is learning what financial tools the town uses, what data is stored in each tool, and how data flows between tools. Jonathan has tried to create a report that shows the fund balance but without success. We need regular insight into the fund balance.
- We agree that if we recommend changes to the SB's proposed budget, we should provide a written explanation to the SB of which line items should change. The additional funds we proposed for 2015 now appear on the correct lines.

- The DPW subcommittee is looking for appropriate management classes for the department and has found one or two. We are waiting for April vacation to meet with Dave about better tracking of equipment use/repair. Grading will happen when the frost is out of the ground. The town has no significant amount of gravel to dispense at this time.
- The Financial Process subcommittee will work on capital planning. We won't start work on this until we know more about the financial systems the town uses.
- We (and presumably other residents) would like access to the details of the Avitar assessment data (the data on the "back of the card").
- Using taxpayer money to pay for this online data, or to pay fees for online tax payments, would be unpopular with many residents. The Select Board is looking into installing a mounted locked dropbox at the town office so that residents can drop off payments after hours.
- There was no financial report to review, due to a mishap with entering payroll data.

Motions:

- The meeting minutes of March 25 were approved.

Action items:

- Mary Ann will send email to the subcommittees asking them to tweak the descriptions of their work that will appear in the quarterly report.
- The QR subcommittee will discuss adding a link to the Avitar site to a future quarterly report.

Next meeting:

April 22 at 7:00 pm at the Town Offices.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Review the March financial report.

Comments from the public:

- None.