

Alstead Advisory Budget Committee Minutes for the October 26, 2016 meeting

Members in attendance:

Glenn Elsesser
Chris Hansen
Marge Noonan
Carol Reller
Donna Sabin
Priscilla Sawa
Juliana Stevens
Les Thomas
Barbara Viegener
Mary Ann Wolf

Also present:

Kim Kercevich
Dave Crosby
Jesse Moore
Peter Rhoades
Ellen Chase
John Mann
Joyce Curll

Review agenda, minutes and action items from the last meeting:

The meeting minutes of October 12 were approved with corrections. (10/yes, 0/no, 0/abstentions).

Financial Planning & Analysis subcommittee

The FP&A committee (Juliana, Glenn, Donna, Carol, Priscilla) is working on two financial reports – a five-year view of budgets and expenditures, and a one-year view of revenue. Some progress has been made, but there is nothing to share at the moment.

CIP

We are considering replacing three failing bridges with “temporary” slab bridges like Acworth has put in. They should last 40 to 50 years and cost around \$100,000, compared to “permanent” bridges that would last 100 years and cost up to \$!M. (The state would pay 80% for the permanent ones, but the town would have to pay for the temporary ones) The numbers in the CIP currently are for the “permanent” bridges.) Concrete arches or box culverts would cost about the same as slab bridges.

Even temporary bridges must be designed by an engineer. (We allocated \$50K for bridge design in 2016, and the SB has selected three firms to interview.)

Road repair funds could be used for sealing cracks. The cost is about \$5K - \$10K per mile. According to David Crosby, Bell Hill is the top priority repair other than the bridges. We need to research whether the town received FEMA money for repairing Bell Hill. We could ask for \$5K for crack sealing, and \$5K to start a road repair CRF for larger projects.

The paving scheduled for this year includes locations in Alstead Village as well as Hill Rd to Cook Hill. We should also include Pleasant St, Vilas and Prospect. There is no record of when they were last paved, and they are currently scheduled for 2021.

Although the older police cruiser itself could last another year, Glenn is proposing to replace it in 2017, because of the need to schedule other leases and purchases. Outfitting the cruiser is an additional expense.

We will need to refurbish or replace the older fire truck (2000 Pierce Contender) by 2025. The NFPA suggests refurbishing or replacing after 15 years. When it comes time to replace the new fire truck, we should probably consider consolidating the two stations into one.

For DPW, the plan is to lease a 10-wheeler to replace the 1994 10-wheeler, \$70,000 down and \$28,000 per year for 5 years. We can sell it after 7 years for \$75,000. In 2018 we would remount the current six-wheeler.

The plan is to purchase a new ambulance in 2020, with a placeholder price is \$300K. The current ambulance is running well and has one of the best diesel engines and low mileage (40,000). Jesse wants to replace the halogen lights with LEDs this year and make other repairs to reduce the repair/maintenance budget in 2017. A remount for an ambulance is \$100K.

We may need to purchase more land for the Alstead Center Cemetery. Bruce Bellows probably has an opinion on this.

The transfer station needs some funds for repairs and expansion (for the Langdon equipment). If we continue to haul our own trash, we will need a new truck at some point. The DPW could re-purpose the FD's 2006 tanker to haul trash.

Peter Rhoades recommended that we continue to keep an eye on the need to replace the library roof.

Possible warrant articles

The FD was asked by the Select Board to research the price of a UTV. It's \$34,500.

Our list of warrant articles needs to be updated.

Budget for Town Clerk/Tax Collector

We expressed concern over the increase in the Town Clerk and Tax Collector budgets for 2017, approximately \$14,000 increase or 40% for each budget. We have heard that these increases were suggested to increase the hours for the deputy clerk and to

bring the clerk's salary in line with other town clerks. However, this increase would mean that all other departments would have to cut their 2017 budgets below the 2016 ones in order not to exceed the tax cap.

Action items:

- Carol/Glenn/Priscilla will update our list of possible warrant articles.
- Priscilla will follow up on the proposed budgets for town clerk/tax collector.
- Mary Ann will inform the Select Board of the Clear Choice rates for FD physical exams.

Next meeting:

Next meeting is November 9 at the Town Offices.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Items from the punch list: budget review, town employee job descriptions, building maintenance, transfer station committee, CIP, and Bragg Lane.

Minutes submitted by Priscilla Sawa