

Alstead Advisory Budget Committee

Minutes for the August 26, 2015 meeting

Members in attendance:

Bonnie Chase
Chris Hansen
Priscilla Sawa
Juliana Stevens
Sam Sutcliffe
Les Thomas
Jonathan Wildes
Mary Ann Wolf

Also present:

Alex Papadopoulos
Marge Noonan
Barbara Viegener
Chris Rietmann

Select Board report:

- The inter-town committee (Langdon, Alstead, and Walpole) to look into the financing of the Food Shelf is starting to take shape.
- The Vilas Pool committee is making a lot of capital improvements. The scheduling of the dredging of the dam is tight because of weddings.
- There are three candidates for Police Chief. The committee will meet with them next week. A rep from the State Troopers will also attend. It is agreed that it is more important to find the right person rather than just "a person", so various contingency plans will need to be considered.
- The Southwest Regional Planning Commission is making a plan for preventing further pollution of Lake Warren. The Commission recommends paving Pine Cliff Rd, to be financed by a warrant article. This will be a divisive proposal.
- The Select Board has approved spending up to \$1000 per month for support from Walpole Police, but no funds have been spent yet.
- No date yet for when the 2016 budgeting process will begin.

DPW report:

- The school bus routes have been defined, so there will be a discussion of the schedule for early morning snow plowing.

Financial Planning and Tools report:

- Jonathan has been reviewing the Historical Trends report.
- The budgeting process should be top-down — the Select Board should set a number for each department for expenses as well as wages/benefits.
- Jonathan is talking with two cloud-based, budgeting/forecasting software companies (Hyperion and Host Analytics).

HR report:

- Les is withdrawing from the HR committee due to health reasons.

EMSG committee:

- The minutes from the last meeting were forwarded (by mistake) to this committee.

General Government committee:

- No meeting yet.

Quarterly Report committee:

- The committee has a working draft of the quarterly report to be mailed in September.

Other topics discussed:

- Fundraising for the commemorative plaque is close to target.
- We need to track revenue on a monthly basis.
- Marge Noonan volunteered to be an alternate. The committee approved (8/yes, 0/no, 0/abstentions).

Motions:

- The meeting minutes of August 12 were approved (6/yes and 2/abstentions).

Action items:

- Sam will prepare a written draft of the Quarterly Report for the next meeting.
- Chris will ask the Town Moderator to swear in Marge as an alternate.

Next meeting:

September at 7:00 pm at the Town Offices.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Find a rep for the HR committee.
- Review the Quarterly Report.