

## **Alstead Advisory Budget Committee Minutes for the December 21, 2016 meeting**

### **Members in attendance:**

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

### **Also present:**

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

The meeting minutes of December 7 were approved with corrections. (9/yes, 0/no, 1/abstentions).

### **2017 budget review**

We reviewed the town budget line by line and came up with a list of questions for the Select Board:

- Many lines are "zero", although a few have been filled in as "\$1.00", for the sake of future flexibility. Should we have some consistency in this? Does a "\$0.00" entry mean that no money can be spent for that purpose?
- What are the hard budget numbers for Tax Collector, Town Clerk, and Executive, including wages and insurance?
- Are specific projects (and estimates) intended for Buildings and Building Repairs? Will there be alarms and security cameras for the Highway Shed, Town Hall, and Town Offices?
- Has there been a determination about the legality of spending perpetual care funds for general maintenance of cemeteries, and what will be budgeted in response to Bruce Bellows' estimate of the need for \$14,000?
- What will be the Police Dept. budget in light of Marcello's departure, the request for a raise for the secretary, and the plans for leasing a new cruiser?

- Why does the Ambulance budget show a slight increase in FICA and Medi., even though wages budgeted for that department show a significant decrease?
- Why do Fire Dept. figures show lower wages but higher FICA & Medi?
- Will the Fire Dept. budget include a provision for physical exams?
- Will we budget \$3000 or \$4000 for forest fires?
- Does the Emergency Mgt. budget need an item to update Alstead's Plan to make sure it is in compliance with FEMA requirements?
- Will the Highway Dept. budget include specific figures to pay for road striping, center lines, guardrails, and tree work?
- What portion of the Library budget is the responsibility of the town, and what is paid by the Friends of the Library?
- Should the Vilas Pool budget show "\$0", or indicate an amount even though it gets reimbursed (with the credit shown elsewhere)?
- Has the Conservation Commission been notified of the proposed reduction in their budget, and have they responded?

### Communications to citizens

We need to create the petition specifying that the AABC votes on the warrant articles in the town documents.

### Action items:

- Carol will create the wording for the warrant article for the AABC votes and send it to us for review.
- Chris H. will create a list of our questions on the budget and send it to us for review.
- Marge will email us if you hear of a working session on the budget.

### Next meeting:

Next meeting is January 4 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*