

Alstead Advisory Budget Committee Minutes for the January 20, 2016 meeting

Members in attendance:

Marge Noonan
Carol Reller
Priscilla Sawa
Nick Sintros
Juliana Stevens
Les Thomas
Mary Ann Wolf

Also present:

Bob Quaglin

Review agenda and minutes from the last meeting:

The meeting minutes of January 13 were approved (5/yes, 0/no, 2/abstentions).

Action items from last meeting:

Priscilla drafted the AABC section of the annual report. The draft annual report was approved, with modifications from Mary Ann and Juliana. (7/yes, 0/no, 0/abstentions).

Carol researched the amount of uncollected taxes (UTX) represented in the unassigned fund balance (UFB):

Total UFB in Nov 2015:	\$726,074
pre-2015 UTX	(\$280,812)
2015 UTX	<u>(\$338,498)</u>
current cash in UFB	\$106,764
Est. 2015 budget surplus	\$190,000
Est. 2015 extra revenue	<u>\$ 55,000</u>
Est. cash in UFB for 2016	\$351,764

Select Board meeting:

Carol reported that two of the three Selectmen do not approve of the inclusion of AABC vote tallies on the warrant articles in the official town documents. We discussed whether we should publish our vote tallies in some other way, but reached no conclusion. In some sense, our tallies are moot, since the Selectmen took our recommendations in all but three cases:

- They decided to take the \$15,000 for the Ambulance CRF from the UFB, not from new taxes.
- They decided to take \$180,000 from the UFB for paving instead of \$250,000.
- They decided to take \$5,000 from the UFB for cemeteries instead of \$0.

Their decisions result in a total \$405,000 to be taken from the UFB and a \$70,209 (\$4.54%) increase in taxes for 2016. This is a \$87.76 increase in the tax bill for a \$200,000 house.

We reviewed the final list of warrant articles and the changes to the operating budget. We decided not to amend any of the articles at the deliberative session.

We discussed the questions we might be asked at the Deliberative Session and how we can prepare for them. The key questions we expect are about the fund balance and about the town moderator.

New business:

We want to add the need for a realistic plan for purchasing DPW equipment to the punch list.

Action items:

- Priscilla will update the punch list.
- Juliana will type up a cheat sheet for the deliberative session.
- Juliana and Mary Ann will create a poster about the fund balance.
- Priscilla will send Mary Ann and Juliana the figures for fund balances, 2006 – 2016.
- Priscilla will edit the annual report and forward to Linda.

Next meeting:

Next meeting is February 10 at the Town Offices.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Decide spring meeting schedule and goals for the year.

Minutes submitted by Priscilla Sawa