

Alstead Advisory Budget Committee Minutes for the December 9, 2015 meeting

Members in attendance:

Glenn Elsesser
Donna Sabin
Priscilla Sawa
Sam Sutcliffe
Les Thomas
Jonathan Wildes
Mary Ann Wolf

Also present:

Barbara Viegner

Select Board:

The Select Board took Julianna's and Glenn's advice on how to reallocate the town cellphones, saving \$840 annually.

The Select Board will decide next week whether to adopt the proposed health insurance changes.

The Patrol Officer job opening was posted today.

Joel has a plan to distribute the \$12,000 in wage adjustments. The Select Board will make a decision next week.

There was only a brief discussion of the proposed warrant articles at the Select Board meeting.

John Mann wants to start work on energy savings for some of the town buildings.

We are still waiting for the 2016 budget for the town clerk and tax collector, conservation and cemeteries.

Quarterly Report committee:

We decided to give the committee another week to enhance the Q4 report.

EMSG committee:

A bid on the Village Station door is expected this week. The committee is researching the cost of buying and refurbishing a used fire truck.

HR committee:

Joel and Priscilla are working on the first draft of job descriptions for the employees in the town offices.

DPW committee:

The cause of the overtime that Glenn noticed is that the attendant for the transfer station is also working for road maintenance.

Gen Gov committee:

Joel found a contractor to give some estimates on the building repairs that need to be done.

Financial Planning/Tools committee:

We discussed how to move forward with the new report formats.

Review of 2016 warrant articles:

- We have a fund balance of \$726K. The Select Board has decided to keep at least \$250K in the fund balance. The remaining \$476K could be applied to the 2016 warrant articles.
- We noted that the 3% cap limits the 2016 operating budget to \$1,590,210 (\$1,543,894 + \$46,316). *Article 2 in 2015 was \$1,545,501, not \$1,543,894 as shown in Linda's spreadsheets, so maybe it should be \$1,591,866 (\$1,545,501 + \$46,365)??*
- We also noted that every \$160K that is raised in new taxes results in a \$200 hike in the tax bill for a \$200K house.
- The draft list of 2016 warrant articles ask for:
 - \$335K in transfers to CRFs
 - \$260K for road paving and striping
 - \$500K for a rescue/pumper engine
 - ?? for repairs to Hill Rd above the temp bridge (FEMA grant)
 - \$15K for an equipment trailer for DPW
 - \$10K to repair stone walls in cemeteries and Millot Green
 - ?? to design replacement bridges

Motions:

- The meeting minutes of Dec 2 were approved (6/yes, 0/no, 1/abstentions)

Action items:

- Mary Ann will update the Q4 report.
- Priscilla will forward Jonathan's email about the new report formats to Joel.

Next meeting:

Dec 16 at 6:30 pm at the Town Offices.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Finalize Q4 report.

- Continue review of 2016 warrant articles.
- Decide whether to meet December 23 and 30.

Comments from the public:

- None.

Minutes submitted by Priscilla Sawa