

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Select Board

Approved Minutes for Public Hearing of the Budget and Meeting of January 18, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Mary Ann Wolf; Joe Levesque; Joel McCarty

STAFF PRESENT: Charlotte Comeau, Office Administrator; Penny Gendron, Police Dept. Administrative Assistant; Kim Kercewich, Fire Chief; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent; Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Glenn Elsesser; Gordon Kemp; Jean Kelly; Mark Mastrocinque; Richard Nalevanko; Susan Norlander; Marge Noonan; Matt Saxton; Barbara Viegener; Judith Willis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE: Mark led in the Pledge of Allegiance

CALL TO ORDER: Mary Ann Wolf called the Public Hearing regarding the proposed 2022 budget to order at 5:00 p.m.

OPEN FORUM: Mary Ann read the 2022 budget totals and allowed for questioning after each one:

Executive: \$105,097 – Increase of \$29,995 from last year's budget, Mary Ann mentioned that the increase is because there will be two people working in the office with Charlotte leaving and she will be paid consulting fees when needed, no questions.

Town Clerk \$38,050.50 – increase of \$270.50 from last year's budget, no questions.

Election \$20,705 – increase of \$6,205 from last year's budget, no questions.

Tax Collector \$39,390.50 – decrease of \$1,579.50 from last year's budget, no questions.

Treasurer \$3,700 - same as last year's budget, no questions.

Auditors and Assessors \$30,500 same as last year's budget, no questions

Legal Fees \$7,500 – same as last year's budget, no questions.

Personnel Administration \$171,164.23 – decrease of \$1,046.25 from last year's budget, no questions.

Planning & Zoning \$9,130 – same as last year's budget, no questions.

General Government \$164,283 – increase of \$15,981 from last year's budget, Barb asked if we had a plan for this, Mary Ann said yes.

Cemeteries \$29,222 – increase of \$2,499 from last year's budget, no questions.

Insurance \$18,135 – decrease of \$2,126 from last year's budget, no questions.

Regional Associations \$3,657 – decrease of \$89.00, no questions

Police Dept. \$187,981.24 – increase of \$3,557.24 from last year's budget, increase was for the police policy.

Ambulance Dept. \$43,203 – decrease of \$4,599 from last year's budget, no questions.

Fire Dept. \$62,563 decrease of \$500 from last year's budget.

Forest Fire Dept. \$6,201 – decrease of \$2,749 from last year's budget, no questions.

Emergency Management \$29,138 – increase of \$1,400 from last year's budget due to increase cost of dispatch and wages, no questions.

Communications (Cobb Hill Tower) \$1 – same as last year's budget, no questions.

DPW Admin. \$74,483 – increase of \$3,583 from last year's budget, no questions.

Highway & Streets \$358,755 – decrease of \$40,748 from last year's budget. Culverts were slashed because we can get them with ARPA money, no questions.

Street lighting \$6,000 – same as last year's budget, no questions.

Sanitation Admin. \$76,779 – increase of \$21,389, no questions.

SWD \$85,284 – decrease of \$14,299 from last year's budget, no questions.

Health Agencies \$17,400 – increase of \$2,145 from last year's budget, Bobbie asked who the agencies are but Charlotte didn't have the information with her. Mary Ann listed some of them, no further questions.

Welfare \$10,330 – increase of \$5,000 from last year's budget, Glenn asked if any of this was going to a landlord who owed taxes, Mary Ann stated that it was not and going to a hotel. no further questions.

Parks & Recreation \$8,502 – decrease of \$1,499 from last year's budget, no questions.

Library Appropriation \$47,396 – increase of \$2,896. Charlotte mentioned some of this is for health insurance, no questions.

Patriotic Purposes \$501.00 – decrease of 1,100 from last year's budget, no questions.

Conservation Commission \$1,026 – decrease of \$25 from last year's budget, no questions.

T.A.N. Debt Interest \$500 – decrease of \$1,000 from last year's budget, no questions.

Total proposed 2022 budget is \$1,657,689 an increase of \$23,561 from last year's budget.

Mary Ann read the 2022 Warrant Articles and allowed for questioning after each one:

Article 01: Election of Officers: To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

Article 02: Operating Budget: Totaling \$1,657,688 with a default budget of \$1,623,522

Article 03: Additional Cost-of-Living Adjustment: Totaling \$12,352 for the purpose of providing an additional cost-of-living adjustment for employees which will continue as part of base salary. To be raised by taxation. **After much discussion it was suggested to make this clear so everyone understands what they are voting on. Suggested wording to add is “this amount will continue as part of the base salary”. The Board agreed.**

Article 04: Paving Article: \$300,000 is to come from unassigned fund balance. **Prescott recommended we remove the word finish just in case they aren't able to. The Board agreed.**

Article 05: New International CV 6-Wheel Truck: \$154,000 with \$110,000 to come from Highway Capital Reserve Fund and \$44,000 is to be raised by taxation, some discussion

Article 06: Road Sweeping and Striping: \$22,000 is to be raised by taxation, some discussion.

Article 07: Add to Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund: \$65,000 is to be raised by taxation, no questions.

Article 08: Add to the Highway Capital Reserve Fund: \$130,000 is to be raised by taxation, no questions.

Article 09: Add to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund: \$20,000 is to be raised by taxation, much discussion.

Article 10: Add to the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund: \$7,500 with \$3,750 to come from unassigned fund balance and \$3,750 to be raised by taxation, no questions.

Article 11: Add to the Shedd-Porter Memorial Library Capital Reserve Fund: \$25,000 with \$12,500 to come from unassigned fund balance and 12,500 to be raised by taxation, no questions.

Article 12: Add to the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund: \$30,000 is to be raised by taxation, no questions.

Article 13: Add to the Police Capital Reserve Fund: \$15,000 with \$7,500 to come from unassigned fund balance and \$7,500 to be raised by taxation, no questions.

Article 14: New Police Cruiser: Up to \$60,000 with \$25,000 to come from the Police Capital Reserve Fund and up to \$35,000 to be raised by taxation, no questions.

Article 15: Add to Vilas Pool Capital Reserve Fund: \$10,000 is to be raised by taxation, some discussion.

Article 16: Paint Historical Society Steeple: Up to \$32,000 with \$8,750 to come from unassigned fund balance and up to \$23,250 to be raised by taxation, Matt asked when this was done last? Answer: 10 years.

Article 17: Ground Penetrating Radar Survey: \$7,000 is to be raised by taxation, some discussion.

Article 18: Bridge Design and Consulting Services: Up to \$250,000 to come from the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund. Much discussion. **Prescott recommended to add Thayer Brook Road Bridge to the list as well. The Board agreed.**

Article 19: Adopt All Veterans' Tax Credit: Matt questioned whether the wording on spouse or surviving spouse is the same thing. Mary Ann said it is not and Charlotte stated it is the language from DRA for “All Veteran’s Tax Credit”.

Article 20: Adopt the Estimated Tax Impact: Some discussion on sending mailers instead.

Article 21: Public Meetings of the Select Board (by Petition): Alstead Select Board to begin with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Article 22: Change Woods Road off of Chartier Lane from Class VI to a Private Road (by Petition)

On a motion by Joe, seconded by Joel **the Board voted to adjourn the public hearing at 6:52 p.m.**

Mary Ann called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:53 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS: Signed bill and payroll manifest; revised purchase order

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of January 4, 2022: On a motion by Joe, seconded by Joel; **the Board voted to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.** Non-public session minutes of January 4, 2022: On a motion by Joel, seconded by Joe; **the Board voted to approve the non-public minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.** Minutes of January 6, 2022: On a motion by Joe, seconded by Joel; **the Board voted to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.** Non-public session minutes of January 6, 2022: On a motion by Joe, seconded by Joel; **the Board voted to approve the non-public minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS: Some discussion took place on places to hold the deliberative other than Millot Green. Joe will ask Lori Landry if we could use the high school.

Prescott talked about trucking the baled cardboard to Claremont and that doing this is very time consuming.

Gordon presented an owner consent form to be signed. This is needed to get Vilas Pool Park listed on the State Register of Historic Places. Mary Ann signed.

On a motion by Joe, seconded by Joel; **the Board voted to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Comeau, Office Administrator

The next meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, 2022