

Alstead Advisory Budget Committee Minutes for the October 12, 2016 meeting

Members in attendance:

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

Also present:

Chris Rietmann

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

The meeting minutes of September 28 were approved (8/yes, 0/no, 2/abstentions).

Select Board meeting:

The contract with Naughton & Sons for hauling away our trash was signed. The tipping fees are cheaper than the current ones.

The bid for the retaining walls in Millot Green was accepted.

Julie is willing to do an annual review of our telephone plan. She only had one week of access last year because of privacy issues related to police work. The current changes in most providers plans will eventually impact us, for example, you can avoid signing a two-year contract if you finance (for two years) a phone from the carrier.

The Fire Chief did not attend this week's meeting, so there was no review of the draft FD budget.

Planning Board meeting:

The Planning Board held the public hearing on Bragg Lane on Monday, October 10. Chris H. was the only representative from the public, since the meeting was not posted. The PB wants to make the property more flat and usable as a community gardening lot or playfield by pulling the topsoil back over the broken glass. The PB will look into the cost of doing this. The five-year contract between Friendly Meals

and Langdon takes off the pressure to move on last year's request from Friendly Meals.

The PB will come to our meeting on October 26 to review the CIP.

3% tax cap and \$578,000 UFB

Mary Ann moved and we adopted (10/yes, 0/opposed, 0/abstentions) the proposal that the SB's assistant send us copies of any forms related to taxes that are filed with the DRA or received from the DRA.

Priscilla moved and we adopted (10/yes, 0/opposed, 0/abstentions) the proposal that we set up a Financial Analysis subcommittee to collect financial data and share it with the committee. The goal is to make sure that we all are working off the same set of data. Committee members are Carol, Glenn and Priscilla.

Ambulance budget

Carol met with Jesse to go over his budget. Jesse has not yet identified any warrant articles to propose.

We need to have a better process for billing insurance companies and then billing the individual when the insurance doesn't cover it.

Mary Ann is willing to work with Kelly and Jesse on defining a better process. Chris R. will check with the other selectmen and let Mary Ann know whether to proceed.

Police Department budget

Carol, Chris H., and Donna met with Marcello to go over the PD budget. Pay raises for Roger and Adam seem warranted, since Roger was promoted and Adam has completed training, but the proposed lines for FICA are too low. Marcello will have to justify the 20% raise he is proposing for Penny. The line for the Police Chief could go down since Marcello hasn't used all the hours budgeted for this year.

PD has made enhancements to the old cruiser to allow for better handling at high speeds. Chris R. agrees that the SB should define a high speed policy.

The PD has asked for a price for putting in a new power line to the cell tower.

DPW budget

DPW presented a preliminary budget to the SB on October 4. He has increased the part-time wages and decreased the gravel and sand but still stayed within the same amount that was budgeted for 2016. He is requesting four warrant articles:

1. Line striping. \$10,000.
2. Paving \$200,000 to \$221,000.
3. Pine Cliff Rd paving \$100,000.
4. New truck \$200,000.

There was discussion about chloride use for the roads. Glenn suggested using part of the striping funds to seal cracks in roads.

Other warrant articles

Carol raised the issue of whether we need a warrant article requiring the inclusion of AABC's recommendations. There has also been talk of a warrant article requiring that **any committee or board member who makes decisions regarding town funds must pay their taxes.**

FD physicals

Mary Ann has talked with Clear Choice, and it seems that this might be a cheaper option than Cheshire Medical Center.

Building maintenance

New business:

Glenn will look into the issue of whether we change the name of the New Town Hall CRF and make the funds available for use on the current town hall?

Action items:

- Glenn will look into changing the name of the New Town Hall CRF.
- Mary Ann will follow up with Clear Choice.
- Priscilla will make sure that we have enough copies of the CIP for the next meeting.
- Mary Ann volunteered to figure out why the dump's telephone is at 262% of their budgeted \$460.

Next meeting:

Next meeting is October 26 at the Town Offices, with the Planning Board in attendance.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Review the CIP
- 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