

Alstead Advisory Budget Committee Minutes for the February 10, 2016 meeting

Members in attendance:

Chris Hansen
Carol Reller
Donna Sabin
Priscilla Sawa
Nick Sintros
Juliana Stevens
Sam Sutcliffe
Les Thomas
Mary Ann Wolf

Also present:

Michael Gordon

Review agenda and minutes from the last meeting:

The meeting minutes of January 20 were approved (9/yes, 0/no, 2/abstentions).

Lessons learned from the deliberative session:

We discussed whether we expect to see our vote tallies on the articles to appear just on the ballot, or in the annual report and the selectmen's mailing as well as on the ballot.

We discussed the need to do more homework on each warrant article to be more sure of our position, e.g., Millot Green.

We need to be clear at the budget hearing and the deliberative session whether we are speaking on behalf of the committee or as a resident.

We noted that the Town Administrator line in the Executive department was zero'ed out before the deliberative session.

We should consider asking for a warrant article to establish the AABC (as an advisory committee, not as a statutory committee).

What we need to do before the town meeting in March

We need to prepare a Quarterly Report to go out at the same time as the selectmen's explanatory letter (in about two weeks). We decided the topic should be explaining the fund balance. We also discussed including an explanation of articles where the funds would come from the UFB or CR vs. taxation.

We discussed whether to invite the two people running for selectmen to a meeting to discuss their view of the role of AABC in the budget process. We decided not to do this.

Committee votes on the 2016 warrant articles

in favor/opposed/abstention

2. 9/0/0

3. 9/0/0

4. 8/1/0

5. 9/0/0

6. 5/4/0

7. 9/0/0

8. 9/0/0

9. 6/1/2

10. 7/1/1

11. 8/1/0

12. 9/0/0

13. 1/7/1

14. 8/1/0

15. 8/1/0

16. 2/5/2

17. 9/0/0

18. 1/7/1

19. 0/4/5

Topics we want to address sooner or later:

- Review 2016 budget/expenditures/revenues.
- Investigate what is happening with the town admin position
- Investigate why only the annual income, not the accumulated income, from the cemetery trust fund is not being spent.
- Review the audit report when it comes out in June.
- Track cash flow and revenue on a regular basis.
- Follow up on the new report formats that we requested.
- Follow up with Hans about the monthly cash flow reports.

- Figure out an approach for creating a CIP in line with the relevant RSAs.
- Investigate how many non-profits use town resources without paying taxes

Action items:

- Sam will draft the Quarterly Report.
- Carol will get the latest printout of the 2016 budget/expenditures for our review next week.
- Priscilla will try to get a revenue report for our review.

Next meeting:

Next meeting is February 17 at the Town Offices.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Decide spring meeting schedule.
- Refine goals for the year.
- Review 2016 budget/expenditures/revenues.

Minutes submitted by Priscilla Sawa