

## **Alstead Advisory Budget Committee Minutes for the January 6, 2016 meeting**

### **Members in attendance:**

Bonnie Chase  
Glenn Elsesser  
Marge Noonan  
Carol Reller  
Donna Sabin  
Priscilla Sawa  
Nick Sintros  
Juliana Stevens  
Les Thomas  
Mary Ann Wolf

### **Also present:**

Bob Quaglin  
Barbara Viegener

### **Old business:**

Jonathan Wildes has resigned. Sam is in rehab after a hip replacement. Chris H. came home from rehab early.

Mary Ann took photos of the stone walls that need repair – Millot Green and the Slade Cemetery at the end of Pratt Rd near Walpole Valley Rd. We wonder why the Slade Cemetery repairs can't come out of the trust fund.

Carol found out that Engine 2 is a good candidate for refurbishing. Jesse reports that the \$200,000 estimate for replacing the ambulance is in the right ballpark. Refurbishing the ambulance is an option, but might be more costly because we would have to hire a contractor to cover the town while the ambulance was being refurbished.

### **Select Board meeting:**

There will be a meeting at 8:15 am on Friday to continue review of the 2016 budget. The budget hearing is at the town hall at the Village Fire Station at 6:30 next Tuesday, January 12. There will be a follow up meeting to review the 2016 budget on Wednesday morning, January 13.

There is a carpentry report from Rohdenburg Property Management. We also received a quote for \$6400 for raising the door on the Village Station. Work is proceeding on the repairs to the ramped entrance to the town offices.

We are going to post an RFP for crushed gravel and road sand.

We will need to have a warrant article to raise the exemption on property taxes for veterans. The cost to the town will be \$16,000.

There is a surplus of \$192,000. A large portion of that is due to not having a police chief.

Four bids came in ranging from \$428,000 to \$458,000 for the new fire engine. Delivery dates ranged from 200 days to over a year. Participating vendors are Valley Fire, Bulldog, Lakes Region, and Ferrara.

**Discussion of warrant articles:**

We unanimously agreed to propose the following appropriations to the Select Board.

<b>Article</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total amount</b>	<b>From CRF</b>	<b>From UFB</b>	<b>From new taxes</b>
2	Operating budget				(all)
3	Bridge CRF	\$25,000		\$25,000	
4	Hwy CRF	\$40,000		\$40,000	
5	Trans. St. CRF	\$2,500			\$2,500
6	Fire CRF	\$20,000			\$20,000
7	Library CRF	\$15,000		\$15,000	
8	Ambulance CRF	\$15,000			\$15,000
9	Police CRF	\$5,000			\$5,000
10	Paving	\$250,000		\$250,000	
11	Stripe	\$10,000		\$10,000	
12	Fire truck	\$460,000	\$380,000	\$80,000	
13	Trailer	\$15,000	\$15,000		
14	Cemeteries	\$5,000		\$5,000	
15	Millot wall	\$5,000		\$5,000	
16	Bridge design	\$50,000		\$50,000	

Our reasoning was as follows:

- Keep the amount to be raised by new taxes no more than \$80,000 over the amount raised by new taxes in 2015 (\$1,545,501).
- Keep \$250,000 in the unassigned fund balance.

- Place highest priority on infrastructure (bridges and highways).
- Avoid investing in highway equipment until we have a more realistic plan.

#### **Motions:**

- The meeting minutes of December 16 were approved (4/yes, /no, 5/abstentions)

#### **Action items:**

- Glenn will follow up with Linda about the new report formats and training.
- Carol will follow up with the Select Board about organizing the list of articles more logically and will find out why the stone wall repair for the cemetery (which cemetery) can't come from the cemetery CRF.

#### **Next meeting:**

January 13 at 6:30 pm at the Town Offices. Note that the Budget Hearing is at the Town Hall (not the offices) at 6:30 on Tuesday, January 12.

#### **Agenda items for next meeting:**

- Review the input from the Budget Hearing.

#### **Comments from the public:**

- None.

*Minutes submitted by Priscilla Sawa*