

TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN
Budget Committee
16 School Street
Allenstown, New Hampshire 03275

Minutes of Budget Committee Meeting on April 16, 2009

David Eaton, chairman of the Budget Committee, opened the meeting at 6:35 PM.

Present at the meeting: Ben Pepper, Jason Tardiff, Penny Touchette, Sted Holton, Jerry McKenney, Sandy McKenney, Dave Eaton, Ben Fontaine and Don Chaput.

In the audience: Mike Frascinella, Jon Richardson and Katie Walker

Dave read Henriette Girard's resignation from the budget committee.

Dave asked members to sign Mike Frascinella appointment form. Jon Richardson and Katie Walker would like to become members of the budget committee. Maureen Johnston was interested in becoming a member and was supposed to attend this meeting. Each gave a brief history of their self and told their reasons for wanting to become members. Dave explained to the new members how the budget process works, the timetable the budget committee is under and that the meetings in November and December could be more than the two scheduled. Dave also said if you have four unexcused absences you would no longer be a member. It's important to let him know when you won't be able to attend. Dave asked new members for their e-mail addresses.

Sandy made a motion to appoint Jon Richardson as budget committee member effective 04-16-09 with expiration date of April 1, 2010. Sted seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Sted made a motion to appoint Katie Walker as budget committee member effective 04-16-09 with expiration date of April 1, 2010. Penny seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Diane Demers, Town Clerk, swore in new members.

Dave explained the purpose of having sub committees for each department head. Members choose which budget they would like to be on:

School - Penny Touchette and Mike Frascinella
Fire Department - Jerry McKenney and Ben Pepper
Sewer Department - Don Chaput and Dave Eaton
Police Department - Sandy McKenney and Ben Fontaine
Highway Department - Penny Touchette and Jon Richardson
Executive (and other town hall departments) - Katie Walker and Jon Richardson

Sted made a motion to accept March 19, 2009 minutes as written. Penny seconded motion. Motion passed 9 - Yes, 2 - Abstained.

Mike asked how he would know by looking at the expenditure sheet which department was which. Dave went through the expenditure sheet. Jason will have Kelley put something together as a guide. We have the 2008 end of the year expenditures and first quarter 2009 expenditures. Dave explained that the town has been on a default budget for three years, so the figures you are looking at for requested budget for 2009 are three years old. Contractual expenses have been added to the 2009 default budget. Department heads are not to over spend their bottom line. Dave explained that the budget is not approved until March, so two and a half months of expenses have been expended. Discussion took place about why couldn't we vote in November for expenses for the following year.

Jason said the sewer department was meeting with the selectmen on Monday at 7:00 PM to discuss the Stimulus money to be received for the sewer upgrades. A special town meeting will need to take place and the sewer department would be paying for this meeting.

Dave asked Jason about last month's questions that were asked to the selectmen. Dave asked about the roads. Granite Street before the highway garage will be done. Allentown Aggregate and Advanced Paving have made donations to this project. The town will only have to pay for a quarter of this project to be completed, with Allentown Aggregate and Advanced Paving contributing three-quarters. Library Street is still on the schedule for this year. River Road by Fiddler Farm and Casella Waste is being fixed today. Deerfield Road by Woodridge will be complete next week.

Dave said the agenda and minutes are on the web site for viewing.

Dave also mentioned he would like to have the police and fire departments meeting in their building so members could have a tour of their building. He would also like

to have a tour done with the Sewer Department. Dave doesn't want to hold a meeting at the highway garage but thinks we should view the building. There's a capital improve plan in place, but no money has been placed in capital reserve funds. The question Dave has is when will the State tell us the landfill has to be closed?

There's an Eagle Scout project going on in the upstairs of the Fire Department. Jason stated that the upstairs has no heat, insulation or walls is unfinished and cannot be used. Jason filled the committee in on the new Chief, Daniel Hart.

Dave said if anyone has questions to e-mail them to him and he will e-mail them to Jason.

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 6:30 at the town hall.

Dave asked Sted if he had the expenditure report from the school. Sted said he hadn't received it from Tom Irzyk, but would have it for our next meeting. Andrea wasn't able to attend this meeting so no report was received from the sewer department.

Motion to adjourn by Ben Pepper at 7:37 PM. Seconded by Ben Fontaine. Motion passes.