

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

Minutes of Budget Committee Meeting on June 25, 2009

David Eaton, chairman of the Budget Committee, opened the meeting at 6:31 PM.

Present at the meeting: Dave Eaton, Penny Touchette, Sandy McKenney, Don Chaput, Ben Fontaine, Jerry McKenney, Jason Tardiff, Sted Holton, Fern Bissonnette, Mike Frascinella, and Kate Walker. Excused Jon Richardson. Absent Ben Pepper.

In the audience: Andrea Martel, Pauline Boutin and Lynn Bissonnette.

Pauline Boutin introduced herself and stated she would like to be a member of the budget committee. She is retired, used to be a librarian in Allenstown, lives in Allenstown. She is looking to help make an impact on the taxes. Dave asked the committee member if they had any questions. Jerry made a motion to elect Pauline Boutin as a member of the budget committee. Fern seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Budget committee members signed the certificate of appointed. Pauline will need to see Diane Demers at town hall to be sworn in.

Reviewed minutes from the May 18, 2009 Budget Committee Public Hearing. Ben made a motion to accept minutes as written. Don seconded the motion. Dave asked members if there was any discussion. No discussion. 10 voted yes, 1 abstained, motion passed.

Reviewed minutes from the May 18, 2009 Budget Committee meeting. Ben made a motion to accept minutes as written. Jerry seconded the motion. Dave asked members if there was any discussion. No discussion. 10 voted yes, 1 abstained, motion passed.

Discussed the Sewer Department budget. Dave asked members if there was any discussion. Dave explained there are two budget reports for the Sewer Department. One is for the plant and the other is for Allenstown. Dave asked Andrea if there are any problems or concerns. Andrea answered that the expenses that were paid for the Special Town Meeting were not budgeted for but should receive reimbursement from the State. Questions were asked on cost of mailings and revenue for Allenstown budget.

Discussed the Town Budget. Dave opened for discussion. Questions were asked about line items being over such as property insurance, fire alarm maintenance, Fire Department building maintenance and repairs, and Fire Department vehicle repair. Question about if a line item goes over budget what happens. Jason and Dave answered money can be moved from another line as long as the bottom line does not go over budget. Dave explained to members to review budget when received and send any questions before meeting because he will try and get answers for the meeting. Kelley had answered why the property insurance was over due to waiting for a reimbursement from the Sewer Department.

Discuss the School Budget. Question asked about salary line items being in the red. Sted answered it is due to contractual obligations and moving of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade back to Allenstown Elementary School. Question asked about any teachers retire. Sted answered two last year and the positions were not filled.

Discussed Sub Committee assignments. Reminded members which department they were assigned to. Dave explained the members are not developing the budget however; they are invited to attend the departments meeting to review the budget with the department to have an insight and more information.

Dave suggested meeting at the department location in which the budget committee is reviewing, such as the Police Department, Fire Department and possibly set up a tour of the Wastewater Department.

Discussed the budget committee review all budgets before the Selectmen review them. Dave asked Kelley to get legal advice about this issue. Jason explained the Selectmen have not made an official vote. Dave read RSA 32:17. If budget committee was to review and make recommendations first, the Selectmen would not be able to change the final budget. Budget committee member's expressed their concerns to Jason and bring back to the Selectmen.

A question was asked about the 1200 hook-ups the sewer department is anticipating on getting with the upgrade if any could be reserved for businesses. Andrea answered the connections will be available on a first come first serve basis.

Dave asked Jason when budgets need to be submitted by. Jason answered August 13<sup>th</sup>.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2009 at 6:30 PM.

Ben made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kate. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.