

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

Minutes of Budget Committee Meeting on September 17, 2009

Present at the meeting: Dave Eaton, Sandy McKenney, Penny Touchette, Jerry McKenney, Don Chaput, Lisa Komm, Mike Frascinella, Fern Bissonnette, Pauline Boutin, Jason Tardiff, Sted Holton.

Excused Absent: Jon Richardson, Kate Walker

Absent: Ben Pepper

Others Present: Road Agent Chris Roy, Chief Shaun Mulholland, Lieutenant Paquette, Andrea Martel, and Lynn Bissonnette.

Prior to the regular meeting the Road Agent, Chris Roy, gave a tour of the Highway Department to the Budget Committee Members and residents.

Meeting resumed at town hall.

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

Penny made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of 9/3/09, Fern seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- There was a question about a motion being passed by the budget committee on the animal control budget. Clarification was made, and the animal control budget was voted on and passed as described in the minutes.

Discussed and reviewed Highway Budget. Chris went line by line and explained the increase, decreases and new line items as necessary. Key items discussed were:

- Increase in vehicle repairs due to the dozer
- Paving & construction increase is for Library Street and Woodridge Road
- Salt expense decreased due to lower rate
- Street lights increased due to the addition of cross walk signals and fixing current cross walks

Other items discussed were fire hydrants, pay increases, fuel expenses, telephone and cost of disposal fees. Price for disposal fees will not be released until the 3rd Thursday in November. It was requested the Safer Route Grant be removed from the bottom line of the budget. The bottom line budget amount presented is \$721,204.00. Budget will be tabled for vote until November.

Sted made a motion to accept the Police Department budget of \$790,192.00. Penny seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- A question was asked about the police vehicles. Chief Mulholland explained the overlap in shifts, cost effective for maintenance, and replacement of car.
- Discuss the current situation of a prosecutor. Under a current contract with the Attorney General's office.

Sandy made a motion to add \$35,000.00 to the prosecution line to total \$60,000.00 with the recommendation to the selectmen to hire a full-time prosecutor. Sted seconded the motion. Motion passed

The next meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2009 at 6:30 PM to discuss and review the following budgets: executive, tax collector, town clerk, library, and other town hall budgets.

The following meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2009 at the Sewer Department. There will be a tour of the facility at 6:30 PM followed by review of the sewer budget and finalize any of the October 1, 2009 budgets.

A question was asked if town hall employees were going to go back to 40 hour work week next year. Selectmen Tardiff replied that the town budget has not been presented to the Selectmen however, the town administrator does have that in the budget for next year. Selectmen Tardiff discussed trying to keep the budget level funded for all departments. Reviewed letter received from Corcoran Consulting Associates regarding property values. Tardiff recommended making drastic cuts such as removal of full-time positions.

Dave read an email from Diane Demers stating volunteers are needed for a drill taking place on October 24, 2009 in Holiday Acres.

Andrea updated members regarding Sewer Upgrade moving ahead.

Sted made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jerry. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.