

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

Minutes of Budget Committee Meeting on March 18, 2010

Sandy McKenney opened the meeting at 6:03 PM.

Present at the meeting: Penny Touchette, Carl Caporale, Jon Richardson, Sted Holton, Jerry McKenney, Don Chaput, Lisa Komm, Fern Bissonnette, Larry Anderson, Mike Frascinella, Jason Tardiff.

Others present: David Coolidge.

Sandy welcomed everyone to the Budget Committee.

Sandy stated the first thing was the election of officers.

-Jon made a motion to elect Sandy as Chairman. Larry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

-Sted made a motion to elect Penny as Vice-Chairman. Sandy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

-Sted made a motion to elect Larry as the secretary. Penny seconded the motion. Motion passed.

-Sandy made a motion to elect Andrea Martel as minute's clerk at \$12.00 per hour. Larry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Members discussed the resignation of Ben Pepper.

-Sted made a motion to accept the resignation. Penny seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Reviewed and discussed the minutes for January 14, 2010 meeting minutes.

-Sted made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Penny seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed with Jason, Larry and John abstaining.

Reviewed and discussed the minutes for January 14, 2010 Public Hearing.

-Sted made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Fern seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed with Jason, Larry and John abstaining.

Reviewed and discussed the minutes for February 2, 2010.

-Penny made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Carl seconded the motion. Sandy asked to have Don Chaput moved from Absent to Excused Absent.

-Penny made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Carl seconded the motion. Motion

passed.

Discussed having sub-committees. Sandy asked Jason if the selectmen were going to do the budget process for 2011 as the same as 2010? Jason replied the selectmen at this time have not discussed what the budget will be for the 2011 budget.

The following member's joined the sub-committees as follows:

- School: Penny Touchette & Larry Anderson
- Sewer Department: Fern Bissonnette & Don Chaput
- Fire Department: Jerry McKenney & Mike Frascinella
- Police Department: Jon Richardson & Penny Touchette
- Highway Department: Lisa Komm & Carl Caporale
- Executive: Sandy McKenney & David Coolidge

Reviewed and discussed the January and February 2010 budget expenditure reports. The reports show a negative amount because at the time there was no approved budget.

Sandy stated that Paul Apple is the new town administrator and he was invited to this meeting however, had a prior arrangement and could not make it.

Reviewed and discussed the 2009 year-end budget expenditure reports. Sandy stated they returned \$270,000.00 to the general fund account. Discussed different line item's such as legal and police department.

Mike asked how much the budget is going to cost us (taxpayers). The default budget is increase in 6.2% from 2009 default amount, stated Sandy.

Sandy asked all the member's if they received the email from Diane Demers regarding the final results of the election. All stated yes.

Mike asked how we can get voters more involved. Discussed an example from the Town of Auburn mailing they have done. Not sure the cost? Possibly focus on informing & educating residents of the importance of the specific points of the budget such as salary increases and warrant articles. Sandy suggested only having 3 or 4 warrant articles next year. The intent is not to overwhelm the residents.

David Coolidge expressed his opinion regarding the tax rate, the budget amounts, warrant articles and zoning. He stated that he is interested in becoming a member of the committee.

-Carl asked if he wants to be on the committee because he wants to say no to everything or to get a better understanding of how the budget is done. He spoke about the current Fire Department issues such as the trucks. Also, stated that it is the town's responsibility to fund these services to the residents of the town.

3/18/10 minutes

-Discussion between board member's and David regarding tax rate and how it is calculated, cutting taxes, and other issues.

Mike asked: Why does there have to be a warrant article for funds to be deposited into a Reserve Account, why can't it be put in the budget?

-If it was put in the budget and the budget defaulted the funds would not be deposited, it can be a one time request, the amount is to large to be into the budget, and the funds transferred into a reserve fund it can only be used for certain purchases.

Sandy asked David if he wanted to come to another meeting.

-Sted made a motion to appoint David Coolidge to the Budget Committee. Penny seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.

Sted asked is Paul Apple, Town Administrator, could attend the meetings? Sandy stated he was asked to attend but was unable to. He will be at other budget meetings.

Sandy reminded member's there is still 1 open position.

Next meeting will be on May 20, 2010 at 6:30 PM.

Sandy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sted. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.