

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

Minutes of Budget Committee Meeting held on March 3, 2011

Present at the meeting: David Coolidge, Don Chaput, Jon Richardson, Fern Bissonnette, Jerry McKenney, Larry Anderson, Mike Frascinella, Jason Tardiff, Penny Touchette, Lisa Komm, and Sandy McKenney

Sandy McKenney opened the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Approve Meeting Minutes.

The first Minutes to be approved were from the December 22, 2010 meeting. Larry made a motion to approve the minutes as typed. Don seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

The next Minutes to be approved were from the December 2, 2010 meeting. Larry made a motion to approve the minutes as typed. Don seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

The next Minutes to be approved were from the December 9, 2010 meeting. Larry made a motion to approve the minutes as typed. Fern seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

The next Minutes to be approved were from the Public Hearing held on January 8, 2011. Larry made a motion to approve the minutes as typed. Jerry seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

The next Minutes to be approved were from the Public Hearing held on January 13, 2011. Larry made a motion to approve the minutes as typed. Jerry seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

The next Minutes to be approved were from the January 17, 2011 meeting. Larry made a motion to approve the minutes as typed. Lisa seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

Discuss Hand Outs.

There was some discussion about the hand out entitled "Annual Meeting Warrants: Preparation, Voter Guides, Government Speech and Excessive Advocacy". The section in question was regarding who prepares warrant articles and in what order they are to be placed on the voting ballot, be they zoning articles, bond articles, or for election of officers. Penny pointed out that there are separate ballots for differing topics, and they differ in color to make the separation more evident. The point was made that the zoning ballot is usually passed over by voters, and everyone agreed that it was most likely related to the intricacies of the language in the zoning laws.

The next topic covered was regarding the proposed teachers' contract. The matter in question was whether or not voters will grasp the 'big picture', being that if the teachers are to pick up a larger percent of their benefits package cost, the raises will not have as big an impact on the budget as it seems at a glance. As well as an agreement by the teachers to reduce their number of sick days by two, the amount they will be contributing toward their benefit package will increase by 5% for the first 2 years of the contract and another 5% for the last 2 years. This helps to counter the pay rate increases which are metered out over the four years of the contract as such: 1.5%, 1.5%, 2.0%, and 2.5%. In actuality, this boils down to a cut in their salaries. There was concern that without these important facts clearly defined, voters will simply vote no for anything that looks as though it will cost them more money.

Close meeting.

Sandy thanked everyone on the Budget Committee for their time and hard work over the past year on working out a good budget for 2011, adding that she thought everyone had worked well together. Committee members collectively thanked Sandy for her quality leadership and organization.

Larry made a motion to close the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Don seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned.

Date approved: _____

Sandra McKenney, Chair
Allenstown Budget Committee