

TOWN OF ATKINSON
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, July 11, 2023

Members Present

Wendy Barker, Chair
Sam Butler
Taylor Haselton
Bob Malo
Bill Smith

Others Present

Dave Paquette, Selectmen Liaison
Angela Wesson, Ass't Town Administrator

Agenda: Attendance, New Acctg/Budget Worksheet, Liaison Reviews, Old/New Business, Minutes

Proposed New Worksheet

Ass't Administrator Wesson went over the proposed new Accounting/Budget Worksheet as follows:

- Utilities is now under General Government Buildings
- Community Center is divided between Recreation and General Government Buildings
- Elder Services is incorporated into Health & Welfare
- Sub categories were deleted and now departments such as Police, Fire, Highway are now under one category
- Account numbers were altered to reflect the changes in the structure of the budget
- Yellow highlights reflect name changes
- Blue highlights reflect a validation

Consolidating the lines was the main priority.

Member Smith shared several concerns regarding the proposed new Worksheet as follows:

- Old spreadsheet has been used for over 10 years as a tool for town spending
- Old sheet shows 6 years of history, where new sheet only show 4 years of history
- 100% of line numbers have changed; 70% need not be changed

Chair Barker confirmed that the new worksheet would not be utilized immediately. A break-in period would be required in order for everyone to ease into it. A timeline for the new worksheet process will be required at the next meeting.

Liaison Reviews

Member Malo met with Town Administrator Apple regarding the new Police Station

Member Smith has not met with Town Administrator Apple yet

Chair Barker has met with the Fire Department with several discussions

Member Butler made an effort to contact the Library. He made the Tax Collector aware that he was the liaison. He spoke with the Town Clerk. He also spoke with Sue Coppeta.

Member Haselton introduced herself to Sue, Paul and Dave. She spoke to Chris regarding Noriko taking over.

Calendar

September 19 – Noriko, IT
September 26 – Highway, Government Buildings, Library
October 3 – Police Department
October 10 – Town Administrator, Fire Department

Ambulance Service

Chair Barker shared the following:

- We have a \$0 contract with Trinity up to early 2024
- A new contract is needed beginning March 1, 2024
- Atkinson is in a cooperative with Newton, Danville, Sandown and Hampstead
- Atkinson's cost is \$135,000
- If a town decided to leave the cooperative, the cost will be higher

Fire Department Updates/Corrections

Member Butler shared information regarding the Warrant Article 2023-5 (fact sheet attached).

Member Malo requested, when presenting their budget, that the 4 departments that have vehicles present their vehicle replacement plans.

Chair Barker requested that the members of the Committee cite their sources verbally when making statements.

Minutes of 4/4/2023

Chair Barker made a motion to approve the Minutes.

Member Butler seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 5/0/0**

Chair Barker made a motion to adjourn.

Member Smith seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 5/0/0**

Next Budget Committee Meeting: **Tuesday, August 29, 2023**

On August 29, 2023, the Committee will review Department updates, worksheet timeline.

The Atkinson Budget Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.