

**TOWN OF ATKINSON**  
**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Tuesday, November 7, 2023**

**Members Present**

**Others Present**

Wendy Barker, Chair

John Apple, Town Administrator

Pete Torosian, Vice Chair (by phone)

Sam Butler

Taylor Haselton

Bob Malo

Bill Smith

Dave Paquette, Selectmen Representative

**Agenda:** Attendance, Budget Review

The meeting began with the resignation of **Member Taylor Haselton** due to her moving out of town (at this point she left the meeting). Discussions were made regarding the procedure for filling the vacant position for the remaining three months. **Chair Barker** nominated two candidates: Deb Cornish and John Ottow. Concerns were raised as to conflict of interest, why is the committee obligated to fill the position so quickly, and the process for filling the position is not thorough.

It was determined that there was no conflict of interest; filling the position quickly allowed for the Committee to continue immediately, rather than adjourning until a new member is sworn in.

**Member Smith** made a motion to adjourn

**Member Malo** seconded the motion.

One member (Butler) was in favor. Five members were against. **Vote: 1/5/0**

**Member Butler** made a motion to delay the vote for replacement nominees and continue the meeting as usual.

**Selectman Paquette** seconded the motion.

Two members were in favor (Butler, Paquette).

Four members were not in favor. **Vote: 2/4/0**

**Chair Barker** made a motion to nominate Deb Cornish or John Ottow as a replacement for the vacant position.

**Member Smith** seconded the motion.

There were four votes for Deb Cornish and two votes for John Ottow (Butler, Paquette)

Deb Cornish will fill the vacant position for three months.

**Member Butler** requested to go on record that he objects to the process for filling the vacant position.

**Executive**

**Member Smith** made a motion to add a new line 41300.820.00 Mileage for \$1200.  
**Selectman Paquette** seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

**Chair Barker** made a motion to accept the Unit Total of \$304,820.  
**Selectman Paquette** seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

#### Elections

**Member Smith** made a motion to accept the Unit Total of \$257,030.  
**Member Butler** seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

#### Financial Administration

**Chair Barker** made a motion to accept the Unit Total of \$377,179.  
**Member Butler** seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

#### Legal Services

**Chair Barker** made a motion to accept the Unit Total of \$36,700.  
**Member Butler** seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

#### Personnel Administration

**Chair Barker** made a motion to accept the Unit Total of \$53,171.  
**Member Butler** seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

#### Planning and Zoning

**Chair Barker** made a motion to accept the Unit Total of \$76,982.  
**Member Smith** seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

#### General Government Buildings

**Vice Chair Torosian** made a motion to reduce Line 41940.430.00 from \$100,000 to \$90,000.  
**Member Butler** seconded the motion. Five members were in favor; one was against (Paquette).  
**Vote: 5/1/0**

**Selectman Paquette** made a motion to remove Lines 41940.413.01 through 41940.413.08 and combine the total septic systems maintenance to one Line 41940.413.00.  
**Member Smith** seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

**Selectman Paquette** made a motion to reduce Line 41940.413.00 from \$1803 to \$900.  
**Member Smith** seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

**Chair Barker** made a motion to accept the Unit Total of \$278,623.  
**Selectman Paquette** seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

#### Cemeteries

**Chair Barker** made a motion to accept the Unit Total of \$126,243.  
**Member Butler** seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

**Other Insurance**

**Selectman Paquette** made a motion to remove Line 41960.520.01 Property and Liability Deductible.

**Member Smith** seconded the motion. Five members were in favor; one member against (Torosian).

**Vote: 5/1/0**

**Chair Barker** made a motion to accept the new Unit Total of \$91,517.

**Member Smith** seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

**Advertising and Regional**

**Chair Barker** made a motion to accept the new Unit Total of \$7,547.

**Member Butler** seconded the motion. . Five members were in favor; one member against (Torosian). **Vote: 5/1/0**

**Police Department**

**Selectman Paquette** made a motion to remove Line 42100.820.00 Mileage.

**Member Malo** seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

**Chair Barker** made a motion to accept the new Unit Total of \$1,579,466.

**Member Smith** seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

**Ambulance**

**Chair Barker** made a motion to accept the new Unit Total of \$130,000.

**Member Malo** seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

**Member Smith** made a motion to adjourn

**Member Butler** seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

**Minutes**

All Minutes will be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.

**Member Smith** made a motion to adjourn.

**Member Butler** seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

Next Budget Committee Meeting: November 14, 2023

On November 14, 2023, further budget adjustments will continue.

The Atkinson Budget Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.