

Town of Atkinson
Budget Committee
October 18, 2005

Attending: Mark Acciard, Chairman, Dave Paquette, Fred Thompson, Jim Blackadar, Paul Tracy, Jack Sapia (liaison for the Selectmen)

Mr. Acciard called the meeting at 7:30 p.m. at which time the minutes from October 4 and October 11, 2005 were reviewed.

Jack Sapia motioned to accept the minutes of October 4, 2005, Jim Blackadar seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Fred Thompson motioned to accept the minutes of October 11, 2005, Dave Paquette seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Committee postings:

January 11	Post notice for Public Hearing
January 17 7:30 pm	Public Hearing

The following budget was reviewed:

Department	Description	Liaison
#4312	Highway Department	Fred Thompson

Ted Stewart presented his 2006 budget to the committee, however, due to unforeseen taping difficulties, the minutes are incomplete. Ted's current projected 2006 budget is \$4000.00 above 2005; however, the increases are due to fix costs that the town has no control over. He will also return to the budget committee with rates and averages of the last 5 years on contract labor. Ted mentioned that he would make the committee a list of his warrant articles.

#4520	Care of Grounds	Fred Thompson
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Ted expressed his concern that this budget will increase by \$1500.00. The town is adding the Academy field to the maintenance schedule and the number of mowing that the contractors will be bidding on will increase. The mowing of irrigated fields will increase from 28 to 35 and non-irrigated fields from 20 to 28.

Professional services/care of grounds reduced from \$5500 to \$4000.00 pending the contract. Mr. Stewart will also suggest paving be put out to bid at the next selectmans' meeting. These are the two areas that have the biggest impact on his budget.

#4324	Recycling	Fred Thompson
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Russ will brief the committee about what our goals should be for the future regarding off setting recycling against waste management as commented by Mark Acciard. Jack Sapia speaks to finding alternative ways of being as efficient as possible to save the taxpayers money. Jack Sapia suggests we explore all options. Ted informs the committee that New Hampshire has a non-profit group called the NRRA that would meet with the town and go over the options and practical ways to change what we do. Ted is in favor of putting this contract out to be, again.

Fred Thompson motioned to accept the Highway Department budget in the amount of \$518, 552.00 for preliminary consideration, also

Fred Thompson motioned to accept the Street Light budget in the amount of \$27,000.00 for preliminary consideration, also

Fred Thompson motioned to accept the Recycling budget in the amount or \$45,314.00 for preliminary consideration, also

Fred Thompson motioned to accept the Solid Waste budget in the amount of \$554,917.00 for preliminary consideration, also

Fred Thompson motioned to accept the Care of Grounds budget in the amount of \$23, 195.00 for preliminary consideration.

Dave Paquette seconded all five motioned, the motions passed unanimously.

The budget committee has concerns about the moving of line items from one department to another. During the last five years, the budget committee has tried to maintain some transparency for each department. The budget committee expresses the need to be incorporated in the discussion of these changes. A formal request was made by the budget committee to have Mr. McAllister see them earlier than later in the process. The budget has begun and it will not make much sense to make these changes when we are $\frac{3}{4}$ through the budget process. Also our bookkeeper is now running on a new accounting system and what ever changes we make should mirror her accounting system. Jack Sapia suggests that Mr. McAllister be asked to present to the budget committee the changes.

Jim Blackadar motioned to adjourn the meeting, Paul Tracey seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Mark Acciard adjourned the meeting at 9:11

Respectfully submitted,
daj