

Town of Atkinson  
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
January 20, 2009

Attending: Jim Blackadar – Chairman, Dave Paquette Vice Chairman, Steve Giangregorio, Fred Thompson, Harold Morse, Mari Anne Princiotta, and Bill Friel ex-officio

Jim called the meeting to order at 6:49 PM. Jim stated that the plan for the evening is to review the last 3 warrant articles and make a determination on them prior to the public hearing. The first order of business was to review the minutes from the January 13, 2009 meeting.

**Steve motioned to accept the minutes as presented/Seconded by Dave/Unanimous 5-0 (Harold abstained).**

The Board reviewed the last 3 Selectmen’s warrant articles to either recommend or not recommend the warrant. The warrant articles are as follows:

*Article 2009-9            Operating Budget*

**Fred motioned to recommend the Operating Budget warrant article/Seconded by Mari Anne/motion passes 5-1.**

*Article 2009-10            Shim and Overlay Roads*

**Fred motioned to recommend the Shim and Overlay Roads warrant article/Seconded by Dave/Unanimous 6-0.**

*Article 2009-7            Multiple-Year Collective Bargaining Agreement*

Bill provided the Board with copies of the contract and a breakdown of the costs involved. The agreement calls for a 1% COLA in 2009, a 2.5% COLA in 2010 and a 3 % COLA in 2011.

**Fred motioned to recommend the Collective Bargaining Agreement warrant article/Seconded by Dave for discussion.**

Dave indicated that in the agreement the officers will still be getting pay increases based on the steps outlined in the contract. He also reminded the Board that the Selectmen did not authorize any COLA increases this year but had given several raises. It was also determined through discussion that if the warrant does not pass the existing contract would remain in place which still accounts for step increases.

**Fred withdrew his motion.**

**Dave motioned to not recommend the Collective Bargaining Agreement warrant article/Seconded by Steve/motion passes 5-1.**

At this point Jim opened the public hearing (7:37 PM) for the purpose of presenting the 2009 operating budget, revenue and the Board's decisions on the warrant articles that involve the raising and appropriating of funds. The operating budget, revenue and warrant articles are attached to the minutes. There were no recommendations from the public to make any changes. Jim closed the public hearing at 8:45 PM.

The Board determined that there wasn't a need to meet prior to Deliberative Session. The Board then reviewed and signed the MS 7. Jim will forward it to DRA for review and will post it on Monday. The Board will meet after Deliberative session to update the MS 7 for any changes. Jim reminded the public that Deliberative Session is January 31, 2009 at 10:00 AM at the Atkinson Academy Dyke Auditorium.

**Fred motioned to adjourn the meeting/Seconded by Dave/Unanimous 7-0. Jim adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.**

Respectively submitted,  
Kjb

**2009 Operating Budget - Public Hearing**

	2008 Budget	2008 Expended	2009 Proposed	Change Amt.	Percent Change
<b>General Government</b>					
Executive	226,674	257,840	212,720	(13,954)	-6.16%
Elections & Registration	158,423	151,125	145,018	(13,405)	-8.46%
Financial Administration	264,876	272,949	268,127	3,251	1.23%
Legal Services	30,500	28,505	30,000	(500)	-1.64%
Personnel Admin	49,335	48,335	50,656	1,321	2.68%
Planning & Zoning	28,823	21,920	28,623	(200)	-0.69%
Buildings	104,634	96,393	124,613	19,979	19.09%
Cemeteries	34,343	37,760	39,530	5,187	15.10%
Other Insurance	53,687	53,386	58,698	5,011	9.33%
Advertising Regional	5,864	5,864	6,015	151	2.58%
<b>General Government Total</b>	<b>\$ 957,159</b>	<b>\$ 974,077</b>	<b>\$ 964,000</b>	<b>\$ 6,841</b>	<b>0.71%</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>					
Police Department	771,133	643,235	767,892	(3,241)	-0.42%
Elderly Affairs	24,149	27,322	37,419	13,270	54.95%
Ambulance	1		1	-	
Fire Department	330,338	302,458	275,298	(55,040)	-16.66%
Building Inspections	52,243	48,803	49,013	(3,230)	-6.18%
Homeland Security	150		150	-	
Dispatch	31,500	34,729	31,500	-	
<b>Public Safety Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,209,514</b>	<b>\$ 1,056,547</b>	<b>\$ 1,161,273</b>	<b>\$ (48,241)</b>	<b>-3.99%</b>
<b>Highways &amp; Streets</b>					
Highway Department	403,709	405,823	425,032	21,323	5.28%
Street Lighting	31,000	34,200	35,000	4,000	12.90%
<b>Highways &amp; Streets Total</b>	<b>\$ 434,709</b>	<b>\$ 440,023</b>	<b>\$ 460,032</b>	<b>\$ 25,323</b>	<b>5.83%</b>
<b>Sanitation</b>					
Recycling	41,616	32,717	35,748	(5,868)	-14.10%
Solid Waste Disposal	554,350	544,582	578,600	24,250	4.37%
<b>Sanitation Total</b>	<b>\$ 595,966</b>	<b>\$ 577,299</b>	<b>\$ 614,348</b>	<b>\$ 18,382</b>	<b>3.08%</b>
<b>Health &amp; Welfare</b>					
Health Admin	6,859	5,899	6,859	-	
Health Agencies	45,428	45,428	45,428	-	
Animal Control	20,092	15,959	23,092	3,000	14.93%
General Assistance	16,000	10,558	16,000	-	
<b>Health &amp; Welfare Total</b>	<b>\$ 88,379</b>	<b>\$ 77,844</b>	<b>\$ 91,379</b>	<b>\$ 3,000</b>	<b>3.39%</b>
<b>Culture &amp; Recreation</b>					
Recreation	79,623	73,515	79,623	-	
Grounds Maintenance	30,400	29,381	30,400	-	
Community Center	47,024	41,158	48,634	1,610	3.42%
Library	308,580	308,540	357,096	48,516	15.72%
Patriotic Purposes	2,601	2,306	2,301	(300)	-11.53%
Cable Operations	42,852	37,701	42,552	(300)	-0.70%
<b>Culture &amp; Recreation Total</b>	<b>\$ 511,080</b>	<b>\$ 492,602</b>	<b>\$ 560,606</b>	<b>\$ 49,526</b>	<b>9.69%</b>
<b>Conservation</b>					
<b>Conservation</b>	<b>\$ 6,575</b>	<b>\$ 6,069</b>	<b>\$ 6,102</b>	<b>\$ (473)</b>	<b>-7.19%</b>
<b>Debt</b>					
Long term debt-Principal	191,642	191,642	177,129	(14,513)	-7.57%
Long term debt-Interest	93,468	93,295	94,800	1,332	1.43%
<b>Debt Total</b>	<b>\$ 285,110</b>	<b>\$ 284,937</b>	<b>\$ 271,929</b>	<b>\$ (13,181)</b>	<b>-4.62%</b>
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$ 4,088,492</b>	<b>\$ 3,909,397</b>	<b>\$ 4,129,669</b>	<b>\$ 41,177</b>	<b>1.01%</b>

## Town of Atkinson Revenue 2009

Account No.	Description	2008		2009
		Estimate	Actual	Estimate
31101.000.00	Property Tax	14,936,546	14,887,557	14,000,000
31201.000.00	Current Use	2,500	-	2,500
31851.000.00	Timber Tax	250	-	250
31901.000.00	Interest Costs/late Prop Tax	35,000	31,309	30,000
32101.000.00	Business Permits	300	65	300
32103.000.00	Town Clerk Misc Fees (E-Reg)	10,200	10,671	11,000
32201.000.00	Motor Vehicle Permits	1,301,500	1,227,455	1,200,000
32202.000.00	Motor Vehicle Titles	3,500	2,674	2,500
32203.000.00	MV (MA) Registration Fees	20,000	21,368	20,000
32301.000.00	Building Permits	22,770	21,382	20,000
32302.000.00	Electrical Permits	6,000	9,895	9,000
32304.000.00	Plumbing/Gas Permits	5,000	7,975	7,000
32305.000.00	Septic/Wells/Health Permits	6,000	5,630	6,000
32306.000.00	Fire Permit	7,000	8,409	8,000
32901.000.00	Dog License & Fines	10,000	11,059	11,000
32903.000.00	Marriage License	1,500	1,817	1,500
32906.000.00	Boat Fees	5,500	4,034	4,000
32909.000.00	Other (specify) Fees	10,000	8,920	8,000
33510.000.00	Shar Rev / Block Grant	22,448	30,888	30,000
33520.000.00	Shared Rev / Meals & Rooms Tax	289,191	-	290,000
33530.000.00	Highway Block Grant	126,508	126,100	136,266
33590.000.00	Other Reimburse State NH	22,443	31,903	30,000
34011.000.00	Income from Departments	8,000	9,086	9,000
34095.000.00	Recreational/Sun&Fun/ACC	48,000	35,937	36,000
35011.000.00	Sale of Town Property	5,000	4,200	4,000
35020.000.00	Interest from Deposits	67,000	106,142	100,000
35091.000.00	Cable Income	93,700	104,331	100,000
35092.000.00	Copies	3,000	2,438	2,500
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,132,310</b>	<b>1,823,687</b>	<b>2,078,816</b>

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
TOWN OF ATKINSON**

**2009 Town Meeting Warrant**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Atkinson in the County of Rockingham in said State, qualified to vote in Town affairs:  
**First Session of Annual Meeting (Deliberative)**

You are hereby notified to meet at the Dyke Auditorium in Atkinson, New Hampshire on Saturday, the 31<sup>st</sup> day of January 2009, at ten o'clock in the forenoon to deliberate upon the articles included in the Warrant. This session shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of Warrant Articles 2009-\_\_\_ through 2009-\_\_\_. Warrant articles may be amended at this session per RSA 40:13, IV, with the exception of warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law and cannot be amended per RSA 40:13. IV a. Warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the Official Ballot for a final vote on the main motion, as amended.

**Second Session of Annual Meeting (Voting)**

You are hereby also notified to meet on Tuesday, the tenth day of March 2009 at 7:30 o'clock in the morning at the Atkinson Community Center, Atkinson, New Hampshire to vote by Official Ballot on the election of town officials, and on all warrant articles. By vote of the Selectmen, the polls for the meeting will remain open from 7:30 o'clock in the morning until 8:00 o'clock in the evening.

- Article 2009-1**                      **Choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing. (March 10<sup>th</sup> only)**
- Article 2009-2**                      **Zoning article**
- Article 2009-3**                      **Zoning article**
- Article 2009-4**                      **Zoning article**
- Article 2009-5**                      **Zoning Article**
- Article 2009-6**                      **Zoning Article**
- Article 2009-7**                      **Multiple-Year Collective Bargaining Agreement**

To see if the Town of Atkinson will vote to approve the cost item included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the International Brotherhood of Police Officers Local #563 which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Year	Est. Increase	Year	Est. Increase	Year	Est. Increase
2009	\$6,978	2010	\$15,679	2011	\$18,993,

and further, to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-eight Dollars (\$6,978) for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at the current staffing level paid in the prior fiscal year? The selectmen and the budget committee recommended this appropriation.

**Not Recommended by the Budget Committee**

**Recommended by the Board of Selectmen**

**Article 2009-8**                      **Authorization for Special Meeting on Defeated Collective Bargaining Agreement**

If Article 2009-\_\_\_ is defeated, shall the Town of Atkinson authorize the governing body to call one Special Meeting, at its option, to address article 2009-\_\_\_ cost items only?' (Majority vote)

**Recommended by the Board of Selectmen**

**Article 2009-9**                      **Operating Budget**

"Shall the Town of Atkinson raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by Special Warrant Articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote for the first session, for the purpose set forth therein, totaling Four Million One Hundred Twenty-nine Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-nine Dollars (\$4,129,669)? Should this article be defeated, the **Default Budget** shall be Three Million, Nine Hundred Ninety-two Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-three Dollars (\$3,992,853) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Atkinson or by law; or the governing body may hold one Special Meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required)

**Recommended by the Budget Committee**

**SELECTMEN'S SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLES**

**Article 2009-10**                      **Shim and Overlay Roads (Currently Pending)**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of Two Hundred Fifty-seven Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$114,040) to shim and overlay the following: 1.1 miles of Upper Maple Avenue (Academy Avenue to the Hampstead Town Line); 0.3 mile of Jasimine Drive; 0.15 mile of Mosher Drive; 0.55 mile of Stage Road; 0.3 mile of Rockingchair Lane; 0.2 mile of Cottontail Lane; 0.2 mile of Pebblebrook Road? This article is in addition to Article 2009-\_\_\_\_, the Operating Budget.

***Recommended by the Budget Committee Article 2009-11***

***Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund***

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) to be added to the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of acquiring fire equipment and vehicles as determined by the Board of Engineer's Capital Improvement Plan? This article is in addition to Article 2009-\_\_\_\_, the Operating Budget.

***Recommended by the Budget Committee  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen***

***Article 2009-12 Recreation Capital Reserve Fund***

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Recreation Capital Reserve Fund? The purpose of this fund is the acquisition, design, renovation, and development of recreation areas, to include but not limited to fields and playgrounds. This article is in addition to Article 2009-\_\_\_\_, the Operating Budget.

***Not Recommended by the Budget Committee***

***Recommended by the Board of Selectmen***

***Article 2009-13 East Road Recreation Area***

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) to continue construction of the new East Road Recreation Area (Map 15 Lot 27), and to authorize the withdrawal of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) from the Recreation Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose? No additional tax dollars need to be raised for this Warrant Article. This article is in addition to Article 2009-\_\_\_\_, the Operating Budget.

***Recommended by the Budget Committee***

***Recommended by the Board of Selectmen***

***Article 2009-14 Mosquito Control Expendable Trust Fund***

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-six Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-six and 75/100 Dollars (\$46,496.75) to be added to the Mosquito Control Expendable Trust Fund. This article is in addition to Article 2009-\_\_\_\_, the Operating Budget.

***Recommended by the Budget Committee  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen***

***Article 2009-15 Cable Television Capital Reserve Fund***

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate Twenty-one Thousand Dollars (\$21,000) to purchase remote recording and editing equipment for off-site broadcasting and other minor equipment needs, and to authorize the withdrawal of Twenty-one Thousand Dollars (\$21,000) from the Cable Television Capital Reserve Fund established for this purpose. No new tax dollars are needed for this article. This article is in addition to Article 2009-\_\_\_\_, the Operating Budget.

***Recommended by the Budget Committee***

***Recommended by the Board of Selectmen***

***Article 2009-16 Police Station Generator***

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to purchase and install a stand-by, self-starting, propane electric generator which will provide enough electricity to power the Police Station in an emergency situation, thus allowing the Police Department to remain operational during a power outage? The installation of said generator will be under the supervision of the Town's Building Maintenance Supervisor. This article is in addition to Article 2009-\_\_\_\_, the Operating Budget.

***Recommended by the Budget Committee  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen***

***Article 2009-17 American Red Cross***

Shall the Town vote to support the Great Bay Chapter of the American Red Cross in the amount of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300)? This article is in addition to Article 2009-\_\_\_\_, the Operating Budget.

*Recommended by the Budget Committee*

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen*

**Article 2009-18                      *Modify Elderly Exemption***

Shall we modify the elderly exemptions under the provisions of RSA 72:37-a and RSA 72:39-b from property tax in the Town of Atkinson, based upon assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75: \$100,000.00; for a person 75 years of age up to 80: \$150,000.00; for a person 80 years of age or older: \$200,000.00? To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least **three (3)** consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such a person's spouse, they must have been married and living together for at least five (5) years. In addition, the individual taxpayer must have a net income of not more than **\$34,700.00**, or, if married, a combined net income of not more than **\$43,500.00**; and own net assets not in excess of \$100,000, excluding the value of the taxpayer's residence. New exemption qualifications become effective for the 2010 property tax year.

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen*

**Article 2009-19                      *Accept Deer Run Extension***

Shall the Town vote to accept Deer Run Extension as a Town Road?

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen*

**Article 2009-20                      *Close Digital Communications' Capital Reserve Fund***

Shall the Town vote to discontinue the Digital Communications Capital Reserve Fund, established in 2001 for the purpose of replacing the Police Department's with new mandated digital equipment? This fund has had no balance since 2002.

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen*

**Article 2009-21                      *Close Sawyer Avenue Capital Reserve Fund***

Shall the Town vote to discontinue the Sawyer Avenue Capital Reserve Fund, established in 1995 for a reconstruction project at the intersection of NH Route 121 (Main Street) and Sawyer Avenue, in July 2009, remaining money to be transferred to the Town's General Fund? This fund had a balance of \$3,069.56, as of January 2, 2009.

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen*

**Article 2009-22                      *Solar Exemption***

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 72:62 for an exemption for property tax purposes from the assessed value of real property equipped with a solar energy system, for the purpose of heating, cooling or providing electricity, which exemption shall be in the amount of the equipment plus installation?

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen*

**Article 2009-23                      *Wind Exemption***

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 72:66 for an exemption from the assessed value, for property tax purposes, of real property equipped with wind-powered energy system, which exemption shall be in the amount of the equipment plus installation?

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen*

**Article 2009-24                      *Library's Authority to Accept & Expend Money***

Shall the town accept the provisions of RSA 202-A:4-c providing that any town at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the public library trustees to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the town meeting, unanticipated money from a state federal or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year? If this Article passes, it will become effective on January 1, 2010.

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen*

**Article 2009-25                      *Library's Authority to Accept Gifts of Personal Property***

Shall the town authorize the public library trustees to accept gifts of personal property, other than money, which may be offered to the library for any public purpose under RSA 202-A:4-d, and such authorization shall remain in effect until rescinded by a vote of town meeting? Prior to the acceptance of any gift valued at over Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000),

the public library trustees shall hold a public hearing on the proposed acceptance. If this Article passes, it will become effective on January 1, 2010.

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen*

**Article 2009-26                      *Petition: Rockingham Nutrition & Meals-on-Wheels***

By Petition: "See if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$2,000 to support Rockingham Nutrition & Meals On Wheels Program's service providing meals for older, homebound and disabled Atkinson residents in the Town's 2009 Budget."

*Not Recommended by the Budget Committee*

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen*

**Article 2009-27                      *Petition: Increase Veterans' Tax Credit***

By Petition: Shall the Town increase the Veterans' Tax Credit to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) as allowed by the State of New Hampshire?

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen*

**Article 2009-28                      *Petition: Mail Tax Cards***

***By Petition: "To see if the Town will vote to direct the Board of Selectmen/assessor to immediately mail a copy of any changes made to a taxpayer's property tax card, with the reason(s) as to why it was changed. (This would allow every taxpayer to have advanced notice to any changes that would effect their tax bill.). When passed, this warrant article will become effective immediately."***

Article 2009-29                      Petition: Posting Tax Information

***By Petition: "To see if the voters will vote to direct the selectmen/assessor to post all property tax cards information on the town web site, so taxpayers will not have to take a day off from work when they need that information. When passed, this warrant article will become effective immediately."***

**Article 2009-30                      *Petition: Restricting Legal Fees***

By Petition: "To see if the voters will vote to prohibit the selectmen from spending taxpayer money on the personal legal fees of public officials personal legal fees for which the taxpayers have no direct liability for and to prohibit the unwarranted payments for legal advice not pertaining to town business When passed, this warrant article will become effective immediately."

**Article 2009-31                      *Petition: Improve Elderly Services***

By Petition: "To see if the voters of Atkinson will vote to expand Elderly Services to provide services to all residents at least 60 years of age; and to all residents with disabilities with no age restriction. To restrict the spending of the Elderly Services budget and Town managed donations, to services directed at the improvement of the health, well-being and protection of the qualified residents. Services are to include rides to medical appointments, and medical devices not already available through insurance or other welfare organizations. To further direct the Elderly Affairs Director to seek out other available State and Federal assistance, such as, but not limited to, NH Fuel Assistance and Meals on Wheels and to post such information at the Town Hall in a conspicuous location. To further direct the Director of Elderly Affairs to post instructions to qualified residents as to how to request and schedule services, in a conspicuous location at Town Hall. To further direct the Elderly Affairs Director to seek out and manage a staff of volunteers to assist the elderly with non-funded assistance such as, but not limited to, shoveling snow and well-being checks. When passed, this warrant article will become effective immediately."

Article 2009-32                      Petition: Full Time Police Chief



***By Petition: “To See if the voters will direct the selectmen to Advertise; direct; screen and interview candidates using the State Police interview unit, to conduct the screening process, and hire the MOST QUALIFIED by objective standards of; education, and time in service (minimum qualifications are; a Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice, and at least 15 years of certified service on a civil police force) candidate for the position of full time police chief. Said position to encompass the duties of the current part-time chief, and the current full time administrative Lieutenant, with salary commensurate with experience and having benefits the same as the current Atkinson Police Lieutenant and will have a starting salary in the range of \$60,000, plus the commensurate benefits. The selectmen are to begin this process within 14 days of this article being passed by the voters, and this process MUST be completed within 60 days of the passage of this article. Advertisements for this position are to run in at least 3 newspapers of general circulation in the Town, for at least 14 days.”***

Article 2009-33                      Petition: Elect the Planning Board

***By Petition: “To see if the voters of Atkinson will vote to restrict the staffing of the Planning Board to Elected members only. Elected members of the Planning Board will be prohibited from conducting business with the Town during their session in office. When passed, this warrant article will become effective at the next Town Meeting.”***

Article 2009-34                      *New Powers*

Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A: 4-a, I(a) to authorize the Conservation Commission to expend funds to purchase interests in land outside the boundaries of our municipality, subject to the approval of the local governing body?

***Recommended by the Board of Selectmen***

***Article 2009-35                      Town Forest***

Shall the Town vote to designate the Sawyer 4-H parcel (Map 4 Lot 11) as an Atkinson Town Forest, to be managed by the Conservation Commission under the provisions of RSA 31:112?

***Recommended by the Board of Selectmen***