

**TOWN OF ATKINSON
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, January 20, 2015**

Members Present:

Bill Smith, Chair
Wendy Barker, Vice Chair
Kay Galloway
Sue Carroll
Tom Mealey,
Phil Consentino, Selectman Liaison

Others Present:

Barbara Snicer, Assistant Town Administrator
Bill Innes, Town Administrator
Michael Murphy, Fire Chief
Albert M. Brackett, Police Chief
Kathleen Friel, Cemetery Trustee
James Garrity, Town Moderator
Leon Artus

Chairman Bill Smith opened the meeting at 7:02 PM, Tuesday, January 20, 2015.

Public Hearing - Budget Review and Operating Budget Review:

Chair Smith reviewed the account total lines for each section of the Town of Atkinson budget and asked for discussion.

Executive: The Board of Selectmen recommended \$193,840 and the Budget Committee recommended \$176,265, a 14.99% increase from last year.

Discussion: none

Elections and Registrations: Chair Smith informed the audience that the total proposed amount for the Elections and Registrations account of the Atkinson Town Budget in 2014 was \$155,141. The Selectmen recommended \$197,099 and the Budget Committee recommended \$186,019.

Discussion: The increase in the account is due to salary increases.

Finance Administration : Chair Smith informed the audience that \$354,742 was the unit total allocated for the 2014 annual budget. \$352,831 was requested for 2015. The Board of Selectmen recommended \$345,544 and the Budget Committee recommends a total of \$345,407, for 2015, a 2.63% decrease.

Discussion: none

Legal Services: Chair Smith informed the audience that \$36,500 was allocated for the 2014 budget. \$39,000 was proposed for 2015 and the Board of Selectmen recommend \$39,000. The Budget Committee recommends \$36,000 for Legal Services, a 1.37% decrease.

Discussion: Ms. Barbara Snicer asked Mr. Smith to inform the audience of what was cut and the difference between the recommendation made by the Selectmen and the recommendation by the Budget Committee. Chair Smith informed Ms. Snicer that the other professional services line in legal services was reduced by the Budget Committee from \$10,000 proposed by the Selectmen to \$7,500.

Personnel Admin - Account Number 41552: \$49,134 was allocated in 2014, \$56,746 was expended. The Board of Selectmen recommended \$61,000 and the Budget Committee is recommending \$54,000.

Discussion: The Budget Committee reduced the lines for unemployment compensation to \$6,500 and Workmens' Comp to \$6,500. \$1,000 was proposed for the sick leave bank, the Board of Selectmen proposed \$1,000 and the Budget Committee reduced the amount for the sick leave bank to \$500. Ms.

Snicer asked the Committee if the amount for workers comp is fixed by the insurance company. Member Sue Carroll informed audience that the adjustments were agreed upon with the Selectmen.

Planning & Zoning: \$21,256 was allocated for the 2014 fiscal year and \$14,859 was spent. The Selectmen proposed \$23,603. The Budget Committee reduced the increase and is recommending \$22,153 for 2015, 4.22% more than last year.

Discussion: Vice Chair Wendy Barker informed the audience that there was a \$500 reduction for the recording clerk line, a \$250 reduction for the Selectmen telephone line, and there was also a postage reduction.

Buildings: \$122,552 was allocated for 2014 and \$112,180 was spent. \$195,093 was proposed and \$153,879 was recommended by the Selectmen. The Budget Committee recommends \$124,244 for 2015, a 1.38% increase over last year.

Discussion: The Selectmen agreed to the cuts. Chair Smith requested discussion by exception only.

Cemeteries: \$44,905 was allocated in 2014. The Selectman proposed \$46,452 for the 2015 budget. The Budget Committee recommends \$45,952 a 2.33% increase.

Discussion: \$500 was taken out of minor equipment. There is an increase in the wages of 13.7% with a corresponding increase in FICA and Medicare. Minor equipment was reduced from \$2,000 to \$1,500. \$2,000 was requested again for 2015 and the Budget Committee reduced that line to \$1,500, more than what was spent last year. The Cemetery budget is 2.33% more for 2015 than 2014.

Other Insurance - Account Number 41969: \$56,700 was allocated for 2014. \$62,000 was proposed, the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend \$62,000 for 2015, a 9.35% increase.

Advertising/Regional - Account Number 41974.855: \$6,470 was allocated for 2014. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend \$6,470 for 2015.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Police Department: \$931,792 was allocated for the 2014 fiscal year and \$806,903 was spent. The Selectmen requested \$946,262. The Budget Committee recommends \$922,326 a 1.02% decrease, \$15,000 more than what was spent in 2014.

Discussion: Selectman Liaison Consentino asked where the Budget Committee cut the Police Department Budget. The radar indicator was moved to a warrant. Member Sue Carroll informed him that the cruiser gas line was reduced. The Selectmen reduced the telephone line and the heating and propane line by \$500 each. \$10,500 of the reduction was in the cruiser gas line, \$3,700 was recommended by the Budget Committee for the crossing guard line. \$7,786 was allocated for 2014 and \$3,674 was spent. Mr. Consentino explained that the crossing guard is doing 2 crossings per day; one at noon and one at 3:15. Vice Chair Barker informed Mr. Consentino that the line for accidental death and disability had a \$50,000 difference due to a contract reduction. The Legal Services line was reduced by \$8,000. Chief Barrett explained that he is aware of the reductions in the Police Department budget. The biggest reduction was moving the radar indicator to warrant.

Mr. Innes explained that there is an \$80,000 difference between the Budget Committee end of year operating budget expended and the actual operating budget expended so far. The difference between actual amount expended for 2014 and the Budget Committee figures will be about \$100,000. Chair Smith stated that he will reconcile the difference in the spreadsheet. The actual end of year expended for 2014 will be about \$4.1 million after the auditors go through the numbers. Chair Smith informed the

audience that the difference between the budgeted and expended amounts for 2014 will only be about \$141,000 instead of \$250,000.

Police Chief informed the audience he was aware of all cuts except the crossing guard and heating oil and propane. Chair Smith explained that the price of heating oil is going down. The Police Chief asked the Budget Committee why the crossing guard line was cut. The hours for the Crossing Guard are increasing.

Ms. Snicer told the Committee that the Town Clerk asked to bring to their attention that she needs a new shredder. The cost is \$250. Chair Smith informed her that the Budget Committee received her emails and decided not to fund. Mr. Consentino stated that there is lots of sensitive information in the Town Clerk's office. Vice Chair Barker pointed out that the Town Clerk has \$500 in the new equipment line that was not expended in 2014. There is \$10,000 in the office supply budget. Ms. Snicer informed the Committee that those funds are allocated for fireproof filing cabinets.

The Committee agreed to review the School Crossing Guard line and the Town Clerk's request for a new shredder after the Public Hearing.

Elder Services - Account Number 42151: Last year \$67,682 was allocated. \$91,418 was proposed for 2015 and \$91,418 was recommended by the Selectmen. The Budget Committee recommended \$87,918, a 29.9% increase.

Discussion: Jean LoPizzo, Elder Services Director asked what the Budget Committee cut and was informed that gas expense was cut due to the lower prices in gasoline.

Fire Department: \$299,365 was allocated last year. \$302,230 was requested for 2015. The Budget Committee recommends \$302,230 for the Fire Department Budget, a 1% increase.

Discussion: Member Sue Carroll thanked Fire Chief Murphy for his work with the Fire Department budget.

Building Inspections - Account Number 42401: \$54,621 was allocated for 2014 and \$49,051 was spent. The Board of Selectmen recommended \$54,774 and the Budget Committee recommended \$54,274, a 0.64% decrease from 2014.

Discussion: Selectman Liaison Consentino informed the Committee that the money for building inspectors generates its own revenue and the difference between revenue and expense is a wash.

Homeland Security - Account Number 42901: \$650 was allocated in 2014. \$650 was proposed for 2015; the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen both recommended \$650.

Dispatch - Account Number 42992: \$40,454 was allocated and \$40,454 was spent. \$41,668 was proposed for 2015, a 3% increase. The Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommended \$41,668.

Discussion: It is contract with the Town of Plaistow. There was a 1.04% increase in the total public safety account for 2015.

Highway Department: \$466,822 was budgeted and \$424,343 was spent in 2014. The Board of Selectmen recommended \$488,386 and the Budget Committee recommended \$459,482, a 1.57% decrease, for 2015.

Discussion: There is a second warrant for the \$26,000 winter and summer labor lines if the warrant for the new truck is not passed.

Street Lighting - Account Number 43163: \$41,500 was allocated for 2014 and \$38,678 was spent. \$42,537 was allocated for 2015, a 2.5% increase. The Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend \$42,537.

Discussion: Barbara Snicer explained that the street lighting expense is subject to electric company increases. Selectman Consentino is calling the power company about the street light in front of Town Hall.

Recycling, Account Number 43234: \$35,324 was allocated for 2014 and \$25,887 was spent. The Board of Selectmen recommended \$39,021 for 2015 and the Budget Committee recommended \$31,021, a 12.8% decrease.

Discussion: Line number 43234.390.00, Other Professional Services under recycling operations is for the engineer. \$12,000 was allocated and \$9,483 was spent in 2014. \$12,000 was proposed for 2015 and the Budget Committee adjusted the line to \$8,000. Line Number 43234.890.00, contract labor, is for chipping brush. \$13,000 was allocated for 2014 and \$5,547 was spent. \$13,000 was proposed for 2015 and the Board of Selectmen recommended \$13,000. The Budget Committee adjusted the line to \$9,000, which is much more than was spent in 2014.

Solid Waste Disposal - Account Number 43241: \$440,701 was allocated for 2014 and \$382,641 was spent. \$450,102 was proposed for 2015 and the Board of Selectmen recommended \$450,102. The Budget Committee recommended \$440,102. There was no discussion.

HEALTH & WELFARE

Health Admin - Account Number 44111: \$3,970 was allocated for 2014 and \$4,542 was spent. \$6,223 was proposed for 2015 and the Selectmen recommended \$6,223. The Budget Committee recommends \$5,723, a 44.16% increase over last year.

Health Agencies: \$39,099 was budgeted for 2014 and \$38,599 was spent. \$42,223 was proposed and the Board of Selectmen recommended \$33,324. The Budget Committee recommends \$31,124.

Discussion: Chief Consentino informed the audience that the line was cut down a lot at the beginning. Chair Smith explained that one was the Sad Cafe which went out of business. The Red Cross was also cut to \$300 by the Budget Committee. Member Kay Galloway informed the audience that \$300 was budgeted in 2014 for the Red Cross.

Animal Control - Account Number 44191: \$18,705 was allocated for 2015 and \$16,705 is recommended by the Budget Committee.

Discussion: Chief explained that many lines were transferred to the Police Department. Member Sue Carroll explained that the Budget Committee cut the minor equipment line.

General Assistance - Account Number 44421: \$18,500 was allocated for 2014. \$18,500 was proposed for 2015; the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend \$18,500 for 2015. There were no changes.

CULTURE & RECREATION:

Recreation - Account Number 45201: \$82,387 was budgeted for 2014 and \$74,166 was spent. This year \$82,387 was recommended by the Board of Selectmen and \$78,587 was recommended by the Budget Committee.

Discussion: Noriko Yoshida-Travers, Community Center Director, requested that the Committee change the decrease in contract labor from \$3,000 to \$1,000 and take it from the line for Sun & Fun counselors. That amount is for playground equipment. She is replacing some equipment and will have the final figures from the manufacturer. She requested to cut one counselor because enrollment is decreasing and the assistant directors can fill in. The Budget Committee can cut \$1,750 from Line Number 45201.120.03, Sun & Fun Counselors bringing it to \$33,823. The amount for Line Number 45201.220.00 FICA is \$26,543 and the change makes it \$26,053, Medicare Line Number 45201.225.00 can be cut \$225.00 to \$620. The \$2,000 can be put back in Contract Labor, Line Number 45201.890.00 making it \$3,000. The bottom line will be \$78,664, a 4.5% decrease.

The Budget Committee agreed to reconsider the changes after the Public Hearing.

Grounds Maintenance - Care of Grounds - Account Number 45202: \$41,400 was proposed in 2014 and \$40,660 was spent. \$41,400 was proposed by the Selectmen, the same amount as in 2014. The Budget Committee also recommended \$41,400 for 2015.

Community Center - Account Number 45208: \$48,087 was allocated for 2014 and \$45,663 was spent. \$66,410 was proposed for 2015 and recommended by the Board of Selectmen. The Budget Committee also recommended \$66,410, a 38.1% increase.

Library: \$410,683 was budgeted and \$413,310 was spent in 2014. \$426,555 was proposed and the Board of Selectmen recommended \$424,424. The Budget Committee also recommends \$424,424, a 3.35% increase.

Patriotic Purposes: \$2,930 was allocated for 2014 and \$2,585 was spent in 2014. For 2015 \$2,730 was proposed. The Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend \$2,730.

Cable Operations: \$43,865 was budgeted for 2014 and \$38,837 was spent. \$56,768 was proposed for 2015 and the Board of Selectmen recommended \$56,768. The Budget Committee recommends \$56,368.

Conservation - Account Number 46111: \$9,227 was allocated for 2014 and \$2,801 was spent. The Conservation Commission requested \$9,227 for 2015 and the Board of Selectmen recommended \$9,227. \$7,127 was recommended by the Budget Committee.

Long Term Debt Principal - Account Number 47112: \$85,000 was allocated last year and \$85,000 was proposed for 2015. The Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommended \$85,000.

Long Term Debt Interest - Account Number 47211: This line has decreased because the Town paid off some of the principal. \$57,162 was allocated for 2014 and \$53,500 was proposed for 2015, 6.41% less. The Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend \$53,500.

The total operating budget proposed by Budget Committee is estimated at \$4,322,916, 1.93% higher than 2014. This amount does not include warrant articles.

Proposed Articles for the 2015 Warrant

Article #2015-2 - Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA)

Shall the Town of Atkinson vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Atkinson and the Teamsters Local #633, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2015	\$7,238.00	2018	\$6,822.00
2016	\$6,427.00	2019	\$7,010.00
2017	\$6,614.00		

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-eight Dollars (\$7,238.00) for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels?

The Board of Selectmen voted to recommend Article #2015-2 Yes, 3, No 0, abstain 0. Recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote: Yes 5, No 1, Abstain 1.

Discussion: None.

Article #2015-4 Operating Budget

Shall the Town of Atkinson raise and appropriate as an Operating Budget, not including appropriations by Special Warrant Article and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the Budget posted with the Warrant, or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling 4 million three hundred twenty two thousand nine hundred and sixteen Dollars (\$4,322,916)? Should this article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be _____ Dollars (\$_____), 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.

The Board of Selectmen voted to recommend Article #2015-4, Operating Budget: Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 0.

The Budget Committee voted on Article #2015-4, Operating Budget after the public hearing.

Article #2015-5 Video Playback Server

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing and installing a video playback server, associated network-attached storage and other related equipment and accessories for Atkinson Community Television, such sum to be withdrawn from the Cable Capital Reserve Fund established March 12, 1994 for this purpose? As of December 31, 2014, there were Two Hundred Seventy-nine Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Nine and 16/100 Dollars (\$279,829.16) in the Cable Capital Reserve Fund. No new tax dollars will be needed to fund this appropriation. This is a non-lapsing article and will not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2020, whichever comes first. This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

The Board of Selectmen voted to recommend Article #2015-5. Vote: Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 0. Article #2015-5 was recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.

Discussion: None. There was no change in the Budget Committee vote.

Article #2015-6 Robotic Video Cameras

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing and installing tripod-mountable, robotic video cameras and related equipment and accessories in Town Hall for Atkinson Community Television, such sum to be withdrawn from the Cable Capital Reserve Fund, established March 12, 1994 for this purpose? As of December 31, 2014, there were Two Hundred Seventy-nine Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-nine and 16/100 Dollars (\$279,829.16) in the Cable Capital Reserve Fund. No new tax dollars will be needed to fund this appropriation. This is a non-lapsing article and will not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2020, whichever comes first. This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

The Board of Selectmen recommended Article #2015-6 and voted: Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 0. Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.

Discussion: None. There was no change in the Budget Committee vote.

Article #2015-7 Cemetery Capital Reserve

Shall the Town vote to establish a Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of developing an additional section in the Atkinson Cemetery; to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend; and, to raise and appropriate Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) for this purpose? This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

The Board of Selectmen recommended Article #2015-7. Vote: Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 0. Recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote: Yes 4, No 1, Abstain 2.

Discussion: Kathleen Friel, Cemetery Trustee asked the reason for the vote. Wendy Barker abstained - personal interest, Ms. Carroll voted no, she would rather it be in budget. The Budget Committee is aware the Cemetery Trustees have projects, and are trying to get a base. Mr. Consentino, at the beginning the Budget Committee wanted everything in a Warrant Article. Ms. Carroll explained she is wary of Capital Reserve Funds. The Committee and the audience discussed issues with capital reserve plans and ways for the Cemetery Trustees to raise money.

Article #2015-9 Lean-to Shed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) to construct a 12' by 30' lean-to shed on the North side of the Town Salt Shed, to be used by the Conservation Commission and Road Agent for storage of small equipment? This is a non-lapsing article and will not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2020, whichever comes first. This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

The Board of Selectmen voted to recommend: Yes 2, No 1, Abstain 0. Not Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes 1, No 5, Abstain 1.

Discussion: None. There was no change in the Budget Committee vote.

Article #2015-10 Elder Services' Capital Reserve

Shall the Town vote to establish an Elder Services' Capital Reserve Fund for the purposes of replacing vehicles and equipment, and to raise and appropriate Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) for this purpose? This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

The Board of Selectmen recommended Article #2015-10. Vote: Yes 2, No 0, Abstain 0. Not Recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote: Yes 1, No 4, Abstain 2.

Discussion: Jean LoPizzo, Elder Services asked why some members abstained and if there were a conflict. Vice Chair Barker and Chair Smith voted no Member Craig Schuster abstained, Member Mealey stated that if the warrant article was specifically for a wheel chair van, he would vote yes. Ms. LoPizzo stated that Elder Services has five vehicles. Member Mealey would change his vote. Ms. Carroll stated that it is a wonderful service, but feels more funding should come from donations. Mr. Consentino stated that the wording can be changed, he would like the Article to be recommended by the Budget Committee. Member Galloway stated that the Fire Department established the role model for capital reserve funds. She voted yes, the wheel chair van and the old patrol cars are on their last legs. Vice Chair Barker voted no because it went from a donation funded department to a taxpayer funded department. It is for disabled people, this will raise their taxes, too. The number of rides has not gone up, but the number of vehicles has. Only 10% of the seniors in Town are getting a benefit. Vice Chair Barker stated that Elder Services is asking for an increase in the operating budget and a \$20,000 Capital Reserve Fund. The program has grown 40% per year, and the Budget Committee cannot allow this program to grow uncontrolled. Mr. Artus asked if Elder Services could have a capital improvement plan, and have taxpayers vote every year on a warrant. The Committee agreed that Elder Services should rely more on donations. There was no change in the Budget Committee vote.

Article #2015-11 Purchase Fire Pumper

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$450,000.00) to purchase a new Pumper and associated equipment for the Fire Department, of which Three Hundred Forty-five Thousand Dollars (\$345,000.00) to come from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund, as modified March 14, 2000, and established for this purpose, and One Hundred Five Thousand Dollars (\$105,000.00) to be raised by taxes, and to authorize the Selectmen to dispose of the 1982 Mack Fire Pumper by trade, sale or bid? This purchase is to replace the 1982 Pumper, and is a non-lapsing article and will not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2020, whichever comes first and is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

The Board of Selectmen recommended Article #2015-11. Vote: Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 0. Recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.

Discussion: Chief Murphy stated he would like to thank the Budget Committee and the Selectmen, this truck was in the planning stage 4 years ago. There was a failure in one of the other vehicles and the Fire Department fell behind in the capital reserve fund. These are projected numbers. Ms. Barker asked what will happen to the money for the 1982 Mack Fire Pumper. Chief Murphy answered that the money from the sale of the 1982 Mack Pumper goes back to the General Fund. Mr. Artus asked if the old truck could be traded and Chief Murphy responded that he was told the town could get more by selling it outright.

Article #2015-12 Fire Department Capital Reserve

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000.00) to be added to the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund, as modified March 14, 2000 for the purpose of acquiring fire equipment and vehicles, as outlined by the

Board of Engineers' Capital Improvement Plan if and only if Article #2015-11 to purchase a new Pumper fails to pass?

**The Board of Selectmen recommended Article #2015-12. Vote: Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 0.
Recommended by the Budget Committee: Vote: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.**

Discussion: Fire Chief Murphy again thanked the Budget Committee and informed the audience that the Fire Department has a plan. This Article states that if the Article for the pumper passes, then the Fire Department will not need the \$125,000 requested in Article #2015-12. There was no change in the Budget Committee vote.

Article #2015-13 Replace SCBA Gear

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thirty-one Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-six Dollars (\$131,976.00) for the purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and associated equipment for the Fire Department, if and only if One Hundred Twenty-five Thousand Six Hundred Ninety-two Dollars (\$125,692.00) comes from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Funds (FEMA) and Six Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-four Dollars (\$6,284.00) to be raised by taxes? This is a non-lapsing article and will not lapse until the purchase is complete or until December 31, 2020, whichever comes first. This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

**The Board of Selectmen recommend Article #2015-13. Vote: Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 0.
Recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.**

Discussion: Fire Chief Murphy explained that in 2016, the equipment will be 40 years old and will not comply with NFPA standards. Chief Murphy is hoping to get a grant, but the grant requires that the Town put in 5% of the cost. Mr. Murphy is changing wording to say 95% of the cost will come from FEMA and 5% will come from the Town. Ms. Snicer explained that it will not exceed the \$131,976.00

Article #2015-14 Shim and Overlay Roads

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Fifty-five Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-two Dollars (\$355,322.00) to shim and overlay the following roads: Orchid Springs Drive, Linebrook Road, Waters' Edge, Stickney Road, Hemlock Heights Road, Hemlock Shore Drive, Palmer Road, Ledge Road, Chase Island Road, Boulder Cove Road and a portion of Meditation Lane, using 4,873 Tons of DOT-approved asphalt? All work is to be done under the supervision of the Road Agent. This is a non-lapsing article and will not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2020, whichever comes first. This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

**The Board of Selectmen voted to recommend Article #2015-14. Vote: Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 0.
Recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.**

Discussion: None.

Article #2015-15

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease purchase agreement, subject to annual funding, in the amount of Ninety-nine Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$99,950.00) for the purchase of a Ford F-550 dump truck to include the wing and plow, or equivalent, and accessories, for the Highway Department, and to raise and

appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) for the first year's payment? This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

**The Board of Selectmen recommend Article #2015-15. Vote: Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 0.
Recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.**

Discussion: None.

Article #2015-16 Highway Department Contract Labor

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-six Thousand Dollars (\$26,000.00) to be added to the Highway Department Snow and Ice Control's Contract Labor and Equipment/Winter (A/C #40.43125.890.000) if and only if Article #2015-15 to purchase a Highway Department truck fails to pass? This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

**The Board of Selectmen recommended Article #2015-16. Vote: Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 0.
Recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.**

Discussion: Ms. Barker explained that if the Article for the truck passes, this Article will not be needed. The \$26,000 in the contract labor lines was taken out in order to buy the truck. Mr. Garrity asked if the line was still in there. Ms. Barker explained that \$26,000 was taken out of the line, but it was not zeroed out.

Article #2015-17 Purchase a Loader/Backhoe

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement, subject to annual funding, in the amount of Ninety-two Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$92,950.00) for a Fourteen-Foot Class Loader/Backhoe and accessories for the Highway Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Nineteen Thousand Three Hundred Forty Dollars (\$19,340.00) for the first year's payment? This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

**Board of Selectmen recommend Article #2015-17. Vote: Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 0.
Recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote: Yes 6, No 1, Abstain 0.**

Discussion: Vice Chair Wendy Barker may request to change the Article on the floor to state that the long term leases are for 5 years, and they are lease purchase leases. Mr. Garrity asked if there was an escape clause in the leases. Ms. Snicer informed him that it was subject to annual funding.

Article #2015-18 Winter Capital Reserve

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to be added to the Winter Capital Reserve Fund, to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance? As of December 31, 2014, there were Thirty-five Thousand Sixty and 33/100 Dollars (\$35,060.33) in the Winter Capital Reserve Fund. No additional tax dollars will be needed to fund this appropriation. This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

**Board of Selectmen voted to recommend. Vote: Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 0.
Recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.**

Discussion: None.

Article #2015-19 Kimball House Shutters

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) to purchase and install vinyl shutters on the Kimball House? This is a non-lapsing article and will not lapse until the purchase is complete or until December 31, 2020, whichever comes first. This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

**Board of Selectmen voted to recommend. Vote: Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 0.
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote: Yes 2, No 4, Abstain 1.**

Discussion: Mr. Consentino thinks that the shutters are for esthetics because the building is old, it should be kept to look like it did in years gone by. It had shutters in old pictures. Member Galloway thinks that shutters would be nice in 2017 for 250th anniversary. The Budget Committee did not change its vote.

Article #2015-20 Mosquito Control

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate Forty-nine Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$49,390.00) for the purpose of insect control, such funds to be put into the Mosquito Control Expendable Trust Fund, established in 2006 for that purpose and to name the Selectmen as agents to expend this money? As of December 31, 2014, there were Two Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-six and 16/100 Dollars (\$2,936.16) in the Mosquito Control Expendable Trust Fund. This is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

**The Board of Selectmen voted to recommend. Vote: Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 0.
Recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote: Yes 4, No 1, Abstain 1.**

Discussion: None.

Article #2015-21 Radar Message Sign

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$16,000.00) to purchase a new Speed Alert Radar Message Sign as recommended by the Highway Safety Committee? This is a non-lapsing article and will not lapse until the purchase is complete or until December 31, 2020, whichever comes first. This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

**The Board of Selectmen voted to recommend Article #2015-21: Vote: Yes 2, No 1, Abstain 0.
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee: Vote: Yes 2, No 3, Abstain 2.**

Discussion: Chief Brackett requested that the Budget Committee reconsider and recommend. First is the problem with speeding in Town. The Police Department has taken several steps to address the problem. A lot of people use Atkinson to cut through to main roads. If he sends a police car out, it takes up an officer's time and a police car to patrol. He has tried adding speed patrols, too. If the sign is located on a road where the Department is getting complaints, it collects data on speeders and saves a patrol car and officer. Second, it is a display message sign that it educates and makes the public aware that the Department is looking for speeders.

Ms. Barker asked about DEA funding. Chief Brackett explained that there is about \$9,000 left and some of it is committed. Ms. Barker also asked what is the anticipated collection. Chief Brackett informed her that \$60,000 more can potentially be put into the fund but it is a long process. Ms. Barker asked about the fence that was put up. Chief explained that it was funded through drug money. Mr. Consentino stated that the fence was proposed for the 2015 budget but never formalized. The other

money was spent on the Police building. Chief also informed the audience that once a request has been put into the budget, drug enforcement money cannot be used if the taxpayers do not fund it.

Fire Chief Murphy pointed out that the sign would cut the cost of patrols because a car and officer would not be needed to try and catch speeders. Mr. Consentino explained that he agreed that it would be a big help in catching speeders. Mr. Consentino asked if the Committee would change its vote after the discussion. Ms. Barker found a request for the fence, but it was never voted on or formally proposed.

The Committee agreed to reconsider their vote after the Public Hearing.

Discussion: The present chief got 2 grants to add extra patrols. Could that money be used to offset this amount. Chief Consentino replied no.

Article #2015-22 Playground Repairs

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for repairs to Tyke Towers, such funds to come from the Recreation Capital Reserve Fund, established March 9, 2004 for the purpose of acquisition, design, renovation and development of recreation areas? As of December 31, 2014, there were Six Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Three and 65/100 Dollars (\$6,823.65) in the Recreation Capital Reserve Fund. This is a non-lapsing article and will not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2020, whichever comes first. This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

The Board of Selectmen voted to recommend Article #2015-22. Vote: Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 0. Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.

Discussion: None.

Article #2015-23 Recreation Capital Reserve

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to be added to the Recreation Capital Reserve Fund, established March 9, 2004 for the purpose of acquisition, design, renovation and development of recreation areas? This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

The Board of Selectmen voted to recommend Article #23. Vote: Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 0. Not Recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote: Yes 3, No 4, Abstain 0.

Discussion: Noriko Yoshida-Travers requested that the Budget Committee reconsider its vote. The Recreation Department has been building up East Road and is asking \$5,000 to build up again to improve or make larger another area or another baseball field. Part of the money will be for the playground. One of the structures to be replaced is 27 years old.

The Committee agreed to reconsider its vote after the Public Hearing.

Article #2015-24 Tax Collector's Salary Increase

Shall the Town Vote to increase the Tax Collector's annual salary from Twenty-seven Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-five Dollars (\$27,785.00) to Thirty-one Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-five Dollars (\$31,785.00) effective April 1, 2015, continuing with benefits as identified in the original contractual agreement dated 8/9/1999 relating to the Atkinson Personal Policies and Procedures Manual? This is within the average range of Tax Collector's salaries in towns of similar in

size to Atkinson in New Hampshire. This will increase the 2015 Operating Budget by Three Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$3,230.00), which includes FICA, & Medicare. This Article is in addition to #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

The Board of Selectmen recommend Article #2015-24. Vote: Yes 2, No 1, Abstain 0. Recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote: Yes 4, No 2 , Abstain 0.

Discussion: None.

Article #2015-25 Deputy Tax Collector's Hours

Shall the Town Vote to increase the Deputy Tax Collector's Hours from a maximum of 250 hours annually to a maximum of 300 hours annually, effective April 1, 2015? This increase reflects an increase of 50 hours annually. This will increase the 2015 Operating Budget by Seven Hundred Seventy-five Dollars (\$775.00) which includes FICA, & Medicare. This article is in addition to Article 2015-4, the Operating Budget.

The Board of Selectmen voted to Recommend Article #2015-25. Vote: Yes 2, No 1, Abstain 0. Article #2015-25 is Not Recommended by the Budget Committee: Vote: Yes 3, No 4, Abstain 0.

Discussion: Mr. Consentino pointed out that the increase is less than an hour a week and is only \$775. If the Tax Collector is incapacitated, the coverage will be needed. Mr. Smith explained that the Deputy Tax Collector got a raise, Budget Committee did not feel increase hours were necessary. Mr. Smith asked if there was an increase in the work load. The Tax Collector works 20 hours a week. Ms. Snicer explained that she also gets vacation, holidays and sick time. At present, she has winter hours and the office will have to be closed in February because she will be away and the Deputy Tax Collector will also be away.

The Committee agreed to reconsider its vote after the Public Hearing.

Article #2015-26 250th Anniversary Expendable Trust Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) to be added to the 250th Anniversary Expendable Trust Fund, established March 11, 2014 for the purpose of celebrating the 250th Anniversary of Atkinson's incorporation, in 2017, such funds to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance? No additional tax dollars will be needed to fund this appropriation. This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

The Board of Selectmen voted to Recommend. Vote: Yes 2, No 1, Abstain 0. Recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 1.

Discussion: None.

Article #2015-27 Town Hall Generator

Shall the Town Vote to raise and Appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00), in addition to Article #2013-22 for \$35,000.00, to purchase and install a stand-by generator which will provide enough electricity to power Town Hall in an emergency situation, allowing Town Hall to remain operational during a power outage, such funds to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance? No additional tax dollars will be needed to fund this appropriation. This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

The Board of Selectmen voted to recommend Article #2015-27. Vote: Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 0.

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes 2, No 5, Abstain

Discussion: Ms. Snicer asked why the Budget Committee did not recommend the article. Mr. Smith explained that Budget Committee is not convinced a generator for the Town Hall is necessary. Ms. Barker pointed out that the article for 2013 was based on volunteer work and a grant. Ms. Snicer explained that the grant was not done because of a lack of funds. Vice Chair Barker asked about wording for a grant in the article. Ms. Snicer explained she did not feel it was needed.

The Committee agreed to reconsider its vote after the Public Hearing.

Article #2015-28 Town Clerk's Salary Increase

Shall the Town vote to increase the Town Clerk's salary from Forty-six Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-four Dollars (\$46,654.00) to Fifty Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-two Dollars (\$50,592.00) effective April 1, 2015, continuing with the Full-time benefits as identified in the Atkinson Personnel Policies and Procedures Handbook? This increase is the mid-range for the Clerk's salary in towns of our size in New Hampshire. This will increase the 2015 Operating Budget by Three Thousand Five Hundred Ten Dollars (\$3,510.00), which includes FICA, Medicare and the NH Retirement benefits. This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

The Board of Selectmen voted to Recommend. Vote: Yes 2, No 1, Abstain 0. Recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote: Yes 4, No 1, Abstain 1

Discussion: None.

Article #2015-29 Treasurer/Deputy Treasurer Stipend Increase

Shall the Town vote to increase the Treasurer' and Deputy Treasurer's stipends as follows: Treasurer from Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) to Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (2,500.00) per year; Deputy Treasurer from One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,250.00) to One Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,750.00) per year, effective April 1, 2015? This will increase the Operating Budget by One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) annually. This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

The Board of Selectmen voted to Recommend. Vote: Yes 2, No 0, Abstain 1. Recommended by the Budget Committee. Vote: Yes 4, No 1, Abstain 1.

Discussion: None. There was no change in the vote.

Citizens Petition Article # 2015-31

Mr. Leon Artus presented a Citizens Petition Article to withdraw from Timberlane School District. Vice Chair read the Article to the audience. The Committee discussed the Petition.

Chair Smith concluded the Public Hearing and opened a regular Budget Committee meeting to reconsider the following lines:

Town Clerk - Account Number 41401: The Committee returned to the New Equipment Line in the Town Clerk budget and agreed to add \$250 to Line Number 41401.740.00, New Equipment, making the total for \$10,552.00.

Discussion: Vice Chair Barker had some questions about the New Equipment Line. Ms. Barker read the itemized list of new equipment given to the Budget Committee by the Town Clerk.

Member Kay Galloway made a motion to add \$250 to Line Number 41401.740.00, New Equipment in the Town Clerk's Budget bringing the line to \$10,552. Vote: Yes, 5, No, 1 and Abstain 0.

Article #2015-4 Operating Budget

Shall the Town of Atkinson raise and appropriate as an Operating Budget, not including appropriations by Special Warrant Article and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the Budget posted with the Warrant, or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling four million three hundred twenty five thousand two hundred and forty-three Dollars (\$4,325,243)? Should this article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be _____ Dollars (\$ _____), 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.

Discussion: None. The default budget had not been determined.

Chair Bill Smith made a motion for the Budget Committee to recommend Warrant Article #2015-4 - Operating Budget at a total of \$4,325,243. Vice Chair Wendy Barker seconded the motion. The Atkinson Budget Committee members voted four in favor and two against. Vote: Yes, 4, No, 2, Abstain, 0.

School Crossing Guard - Line Number 42101.110.05: Vice Chair Barker stated that no more than \$4,000 has ever been expended for that line. Mr. Consentino explained that he put in for enough for someone to do both crossings, but the Town could never find anyone to do the noon school crossing, and that's why only \$4,000 has been expended.

Member Sue Carroll made a motion to change the Budget Committee recommendation for School Crossing Guard to \$7,786 the proposed amount.

Discussion: Member Kay Galloway asked when the crossing guard started. Mr. Consentino informed her it was the latter part of 2014. Ms. Snicer explained that the crossing guard has been doing two crossings in September, October, November and December. There is a 30% increase in hours. Ms. Snicer explained that the Town did not have crossing guard for awhile. Ms. Snicer believes the Town was paying a police officer for crossing guard duties in those years. Chair Smith recommended that the line be changed to \$5,000 or \$6,000.

Chair Smith made a motion to increase Line Number 42101.110.05, School Crossing Guard, to \$6,000. Selectman Liaison Consentino seconded the motion. The Atkinson Budget Committee voted to 5 in favor one opposed to recommend \$6,000 for the School Crossing Guard, Line Number 42101.110.05. Vote: Yes, 5, No, 1 and 0 abstain.

Recreation - Account Number 45201: The Committee discussed the request made by Noriko Yoshida-Travers in the discussion in the Public Hearing.

Chair Bill Smith made a motion to bring Line Number 45201.120.03, Sun & Fun Counselors to \$33,823 and Line Number 45201.220.00, S&F FICA, can be decreased to \$2,653. Line Number 45201.225.00, S&F Medicare, can be decreased by \$33 to \$620 and Line Number 45201.890.00, Contract Labor and Equipment, can be increased from \$1,000 to \$3,000 which will raise the total from \$78,587 to \$78,664. Selectman Liaison Consentino seconded the motion.

The Budget Committee voted all in favor to make the changes in the Recreation Account, Number 45201, making the total for the Recreation Account \$78,664. Vote: Yes 6, No 0 and Abstain 0.

The above are all the adjustments to the Operating Budget.

Article #2015-21 Radar Message Sign

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$16,000.00) to purchase a new Speed Alert Radar Message Sign as recommended by the Highway Safety Committee? This is a non-lapsing article and will not lapse until the purchase is complete or until December 31, 2020, whichever comes first. This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

Chair Smith made a motion for the Budget Committee to recommend Article #2015-21 - Radar Message Sign: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$16,000.00) to purchase a new Speed Alert Radar Message Sign as recommended by the Highway Safety Committee? This is a non-lapsing article and will not lapse until the purchase is complete or until December 31, 2020, whichever comes first. This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget. Vice Chair Barker seconded the motion.

The Budget Committee voted all in favor to Recommend Article #2015-21. Vote: 6 Yes, No 0, and Abstain 0.

Article #2015-23 Recreation Capital Reserve

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to be added to the Recreation Capital Reserve Fund, established March 9, 2004 for the purpose of acquisition, design, renovation and development of recreation areas? This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

Chair Smith made a motion for the Budget Committee to recommend Article #2015-23 - Recreation Capital Reserve - Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to be added to the Recreation Capital Reserve Fund, established March 9, 2004 for the purpose of acquisition, design, renovation and development of recreation areas? This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget. Vice Chair Barker seconded the motion.

The Budget Committee voted Not to Recommend Article #2015-23. Vote: 2 Yes, 4 No, Abstain 0.

Discussion: Ms. Barker stated that the money should come from grants and donations. Chair Smith felt that it is not necessary. The Women's Civic Club originally contributed to the fund. The Committee discussed a previous warrant for an irrigation system. Ms. Snicer explained that the Lions Club donated the \$19,000 for the sprinkler system.

Article #2015-25 Deputy Tax Collector's Hours

Shall the Town Vote to increase the Deputy Tax Collector's Hours from a maximum of 250 hours annually to a maximum of 300 hours annually, effective April 1, 2015? This increase reflects an increase of 50 hours annually. This will increase the 2015 Operating Budget by Seven Hundred Seventy-five Dollars (\$775.00) which includes FICA, & Medicare. This article is in addition to Article 2015-4, the Operating Budget.

Selectman Liaison Consentino made a motion to reconsider Article #2015-25, Deputy Tax Collector's Hours. Shall the Town Vote to increase the Deputy Tax Collector's Hours from a maximum of 250 hours annually to a maximum of 300 hours annually, effective April 1, 2015? This increase reflects an increase of 50 hours annually. This will increase the 2015 Operating Budget by Seven Hundred Seventy-five Dollars (\$775.00) which includes FICA, & Medicare. This article is in addition to Article 2015-4, the Operating Budget. Member Kay Galloway seconded the motion.

The Town of Atkinson Budget Committee voted 2 in favor and 4 opposed Not to Recommend Article #2015-25, Deputy Tax Collector's Hours. Vote: 2 yes, four no and 0 abstain.

Discussion: Vice Chair Barker does not see the need. If the Tax Collectors hours as State Representative have increased, why should the town pay.

Article #2015-27 Town Hall Generator

Shall the Town Vote to raise and Appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00), in addition to Article #2013-22 for \$35,000.00, to purchase and install a stand-by generator which will provide enough electricity to power Town Hall in an emergency situation, allowing Town Hall to remain operational during a power outage, such funds to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance? No additional tax dollars will be needed to fund this appropriation. This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget.

Member Kay Galloway made a motion for the Budget Committee to recommend Article #2015-27 - Town Hall Generator: Shall the Town Vote to raise and Appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00), in addition to Article #2013-22 for \$35,000.00, to purchase and install a stand-by generator which will provide enough electricity to power Town Hall in an emergency situation, allowing Town Hall to remain operational during a power outage, such funds to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance? No additional tax dollars will be needed to fund this appropriation. This article is in addition to Article #2015-4, the Operating Budget. Selectman Liaison seconded the motion.

The Budget Committee voted Not to Recommend Article #2015-27. Vote: Yes, 2, No 4, Abstain, 0.

Minutes: January 15, 2015 and January 20, 2015 - can do by email

Vice Chair Wendy Barker made a motion to adjourn the Tuesday, January 20, 2015 meeting of the Town of Atkinson Budget Committee at 10:30 PM. Member Kay Galloway seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Vote: 6/0.