

Atkinson Budget Committee Workshop Minutes April 7, 2015

Attendees:

Wendy Barker
Sue Carroll
Kay Galloway
Tom Mealey
Harold Morse – Selectmens' Liaison to Budget Committee
Peter Torosian
Bill Smith

Meeting opened approximately 7:00 PM.

This was an initial workshop style meeting to discuss organizational planning for the coming budget season, which is primarily in the fall.

Election of Officers: Motion by Sue Carroll, seconded by Tom Mealey—passed unanimously.
Bill Smith – Chairman
Wendy Barker -- Vice-Chairman

Meeting Schedule and Department Liaisons:

After discussion, it was decided to have monthly meetings during the summer, normally the first Tuesday of the month. Tentative dates were set for the summer and fall, and Committee members chose departments for which they would be the contacts, as shown in separate document "Atkinson_Budget_Committee_2015-2016_Calendar_Liaisons_List_upd_2015-04-07a".

General Discussion: Tom requested we cite page number and line number when discussing the spreadsheet. Ideas included aiming for a goal of zero percent overall increase, prioritizing, analyzing and looking at usage before making cuts, and asking departments to encourage donations and fundraisers to offset expenses. The Town Clerk was praised for finding second-hand file cabinets instead of new, for a savings of around \$6,000. Elderly Services has reportedly received some donations; Peter is volunteering as a driver. If these types of initiatives can be further encouraged, hopefully that department can be made mostly self-sustaining, with minimal burden on taxpayers.

Meeting adjourned approximately 7:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Smith