

## Atkinson Budget Committee Workshop Minutes August 30, 2016

**Attendees:** Wendy Barker -- Vice-Chair  
Sue Carroll  
Kay Galloway  
Tom Mealey  
Alan Phair -- Town Administrator  
Peter Torosian  
Bill Smith -- Chairman

- Meeting opened approximately 7:30 PM.
- Previous 8/9 meeting minutes were approved (motion by Sue, seconded by Tom) as corrected (motion nominating Chair and Vice-Chair had been made by Sue, and Kay had seconded).
- Budget calendar discussion included moving Recreation/250th and Community Center presentations up from 9/27 to 9/20.
- Kimball House broken-pipe emergency budget over-expenditure request discussion continued from last meeting. Town Administrator Alan Phair indicated the funds to be authorized by an emergency budget over-expenditure request would probably not be needed, but were desired for a safety net against unforeseen circumstances. Chairman Smith complimented Alan for an excellent job with handling project details and providing requested information. Selectmens' 4/25 minutes showed original estimated cost of "Option #1: Repair of Upstairs Bathroom" (pipe repair only) was \$7,100 (without asbestos), or \$12,600 (if asbestos found). Selectmens' minutes showed they had approved \$19,750 for pipe repair plus bathroom remodeling and moving the bathroom downstairs. The original proposed emergency over-expenditure request was for \$20,000. The draft over-expenditure request letter to DRA, presented at the 8/9 Budget Committee meeting, was for \$26,750. Chairman Smith stated his opinion that an appropriate emergency request would be for pipe replacement cost of similar value (like after an auto accident, insurance normally would cover a comparable used car; a new car might be desirable, and if you want a new car, now might be a good time; but the extra cost of the new car would come out of the household budget, not insurance). The consensus of most Committee members was that the bathroom remodeling and moving downstairs was a good idea, that there was enough in the current budget to cover it (as discussed by Selectmen in the Selectmens' minutes), and that basic pipe repairs were an unexpected expense justifying an emergency budget over-expenditure request to DRA. Chairman Smith proposed an emergency budget over-expenditure request to DRA in the amount of \$12,000. A survey showed 4 members were willing to sign a letter for \$12,000 (Bill, Sue, Tom, and Peter). Kay was unwilling. Wendy was undecided. Alan indicated he would discuss it with the Selectmen.
- Chairman Smith presented the initial 2016-2017 Budget Committee spreadsheet, describing the embedded macros he developed for conversion from previous year.
- Liaisons will meet with department heads in preparation for department presentations.
- Further calendar discussion about whether 7:30 or 7:00 is best for meeting start times concluded that at least the next meeting 9/20 will begin at 7:30, and starting times may later be readjusted as needed.
- Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Smith