

**TOWN OF ATKINSON
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, January 3, 2017
FINAL**

Members Present:

Bill Smith, Chair
Wendy Barker, Vice Chair
Peter Torosian
Susan Carroll
Tom Mealey
Kay Galloway
Jason B. Grosky, Selectman Ex Officio

Others Present:

Alan Phair, Town Administrator

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Agenda: Review budget, review minutes

The Budget Committee reviewed the 2017 budget. The Selectmen have not yet voted on warrants.

The percent increase for the total Atkinson 2017 budget is 2.12%. Chair Smith requested comments. Mr. Phair asked about FICA and Medicare. The Budget Committee reviewed FICA and Medicare in the Executive budget.

There were no other comments.

Minutes:

December 13, 2016:

Chair Smith made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 13, 2016 meeting of the Atkinson Budget Committee as amended and Member Galloway seconded the motion. All members of the Atkinson Budget Committee present voted in favor. Vote: 7/0/0.

December 20, 2016:

Selectman Grosky suggested that the people who abstained or voted no be referenced by name in the vote.

Member Carroll made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 20, 2016 as corrected. Member Galloway seconded the motion. Six members of the Atkinson Budget Committee present voted in favor with Selectman Ex-Officio Grosky abstaining. Vote: 6/0/1.

Budget:

Member Carroll made a statement that it is an absolutely true statement that her opinion has not changed and her argument has not changed in six years because the circumstances have not changed. The economy is no better than it was in 2008. It is bolstered by fraudulent stats, quantitative easing and artificially low interest rates. The "Fed" has started to increase rates and those are going to change which is going to impact the payment on our debt. And every year she has been on the Committee, Town employees have gotten a raise even though the Budget Committee has fought against it and some up to a 37% increase. Therefore, because circumstances have not changed, her argument has not changed.

Selectmen's Salaries – Line Number 41301.130.00: Under the Executive Salary, where it says proposed and Selectmen, it is \$17,239. The Selectmen voted to change the Selectmen Salaries to \$16,901, the default budget amount.

Chair Smith informed the Committee that the warrant articles have not been approved by the Selectmen and the MS7 signatures will have to wait.

Warrants:

There should be some warrants from the Fire Department, the Highway Department and the Police Department.

Chair Smith made a motion to approve the draft of the Town of Atkinson FY 2017 budget dated 2016-12-30b in the amount of \$4,535,431, a 2.12% increase over the 2016 budget. Member Torosian seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Vote: 7/0/0.

Chair Smith explained that the default budget is the previous year budget less one-time expenses, contracts, changes made at Deliberative Session and Warrant Articles. Chair Smith will fill out a form making the adjustments.

The Budget Committee will vote on warrants on January 10, 2017. The public hearing will be January 17, 2017. The Deliberative Session will be Saturday, February 4, 2017 at 10:00 am. The snow date is February 11, 2017.

Member Galloway made a motion to adjourn the January 3, 2017 meeting of the Atkinson Budget Committee at 8:10 PM. Member Torosian seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Vote: 7/0/0.