

## Atkinson Budget Committee Workshop Minutes August 29, 2017

**Attendees:** Wendy Barker  
Sue Carroll  
Jason Grosky -- Selectmens' Liaison to Budget Committee  
Bob Malo  
Bill Smith  
Peter Torosian  
Bob Worden

**Guests:** Alan Phair, Town Administrator  
Barbara Snicer

- Meeting opened approximately 7:40 PM.
- Previous minutes from July 11, 2017 were approved as written (5/0/2).
- Printed copies of the latest 2017-2018 Atkinson Budget Committee spreadsheet, that includes Expended data through July, were distributed.
- Peter reported on discussions with the Fire Department about Fire House siding problems and meetings regarding potentially hiring full-time firemen; he suggested checking with other towns as to how they handled transitioning to full-time personnel. He also said Planning and Zoning is over budget due to large numbers of building permits (and rates for inspections will go up).
- Sue has appointments to meet with Elderly Services and Police Department.
- Wendy said she spoke to Dave Weymouth and Alan about Buildings and General Government contracts. She also talked to Noriko about the Community Center, including their new database program and possibly new A/C units, and maybe a security camera. There may be a wage increase request for Sun & Fun, due to trouble attracting workers. The Librarian will have a raise per contract; the Library IT is ending and is out for bid; Library lights were replaced with LEDs; a staff member may put family members on health insurance.
- Bob Worden will meet with Conservation next week; he already spoke with Cable; he will tour the town with Ted Stuart. An old town truck was repaired because the new truck is not ready yet; the old truck was sold for \$15,000. He asked about how the Fire Department handled replacing equipment; discussion ensued about the pros and cons of capital reserve funds.
- Bob Malo spoke with the Tax Collector; although some lines were overspent, overall spending is expected to be OK.
- Alan and Barbara presented a request for Budget Committee approval of a letter to the Department of Revenue Administration, requesting authorization to overspend the 2017 budget by \$116,000. This amount was due to (a) wind blowing siding off the Fire House showed some water damage, estimated at "worst case" \$90,000 (for which insurance has already paid approximately \$13,700), and (b) increased construction in town causing an estimated \$26,000 overspending on building inspections (which will be more than covered by an estimated \$37,425 extra building permit fees). A long discussion ensued, during which Budget Committee members were generally agreeable with (b), as it would be reimbursed by revenue, but requested more information, before reaching a decision on (a). Budget Committee Chairman Bill Smith agreed to contact the Fire Department, to arrange a tour of the Fire House to see the damage first hand, for himself and members Peter Torosian and Bob Malo. The Budget Committee agreed to meet again on Tuesday, September 5, at 7:30 PM, to discuss (a) and (b) further.
- Chairman Bill mentioned additional all-day Budget training sessions, including various specialized seminars, for \$90, on either September 12 in Bedford or September 26 in Bartlett, and asked anyone interested to contact Barbara Snicer; Peter Torosian indicated possible interest.
- Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Smith