

**TOWN OF ATKINSON  
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING  
Tuesday, August 13, 2019**

**Members Present**

Bill Smith, Chair  
Ray Fournier  
Bob Malo  
Peter Torosian  
Bob Worden

**Others Present**

Greg Spero, Selectmen Liaison

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 7:47 p.m.

**Agenda:** Meeting with Selectmen, Schedule, Minutes

**Chair Smith asked for thoughts of the meeting with Selectmen.**

**Member Torosian felt it was a productive meeting but had some concerns with the following:**

- **Warrants being brought back after voting**
- **Library siding**
- **Library parking expansion**

**Member Malo suggested the following:**

- **Volunteer consultant for healthcare**
- **Create a list of volunteers**
- **List of contractors with end dates**

**Liaison Spero shared the following:**

- **More experience is helpful**
- **5-member board puts more eyes on situations**
- **Library siding is be investigated by a Selectmen Board member**
- **Library Trustees are meeting with the Selectmen on August 26 in regards to the parking lot expansion**
- **Advertising is a great idea**

**Member Worden felt that it was a fruitful meeting and shared the following:**

- **Looking for a pull-through with COLA**
- **Hopes that the Budget Committee can be of some help regarding healthcare issues**
- **It would be good if the Selectmen would agree to work with Member Malo's ideas on volunteerism**
- **Londonderry volunteer program for seniors might be a program that Atkinson could look into**

**Liaison Spero reminded the Committee of the following volunteer programs in Atkinson:**

- Lions Club
- Women's Civic Club
- Garden Club
- To grow on these clubs for other specialty areas is a great idea

Member Fournier felt the meeting with the Selectmen went very well. He said the Selectmen paid attention and seemed to agree with us.

Chair Smith shared an e-mail from Administrator Cressman stating that he thought the Selectmen/Budget Committee meeting went well and felt that there should be more joint meetings at 6:00 p.m. on Monday night if we want. He shared a condensed spreadsheet of initial department requests that added up to 2.81% increase, so far, over last year.

Chair Smith reiterated his comments from the Selectmen meeting:

- We want to balance the needs of the town with taxpayers ability to pay
- Low taxes – keep property values high
- Low spending leads to low taxes
- Budget Committee ideal goal is approximately 2%

Several members shared a discussion on revenue data, specifically residents who are behind in paying their taxes. Chair Smith said he spoke with the Tax Collector who said that several of the taxpayers who are unable to pay their taxes are very elderly and the Tax Collector is helping them so they can avoid foreclosures.

Member Torosian reiterated that he would like to see more collaboration between the Budget Committee and the Selectmen.

Liaison Spero said that he would pass it on to the Selectmen and the Administrator.

Chair Smith suggests to the Selectmen that the COLA raises for town employees could be discussed sometime in late-Fall which allows for more data to be collected in order to make an educated decision.

Liaison Spero will pass it on to the Selectmen and the Administrator.

Chair Smith stated that there are several changes in the calendar:

- Order of departments presenting has changed
- Some liaison names for various departments have been changed
- Calendar dates to match 2019 calendar
- Liaisons should check with each department to OK calendar schedule
- Remove Tax collector on 11/12
- Move Police from 10/29 to 11/12

**Member Worden asked if the minutes could be recorded by departments per page (example: Fire on one page, Police on separate page, etc.)**

**Chair Smith asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 6, 2019.** Member Torosian made the motion to approve the minutes as amended; Member Worden seconded the motion. All attending members were in favor. Vote: 5/0/0

**Chair Smith made a motion to adjourn and Member Torosian seconded the motion.** All members were in favor. Vote: 5/0/0

The Atkinson Budget Committee adjourned at 8:29 p.m.