

**TOWN OF ATKINSON
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, October 29, 2019**

Members Present

Bill Smith, Chair

Wendy Barker, Vice Chair

Ray Fournier

Peter Torosian

Bob Malo

Bob Worden

Others Present

Dave Cressman, Town Administrator

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Agenda: Several department presentations; Minutes

October 22, 2019 Budget Committee Minutes

Chair Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Member Worden seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

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Fire Department

Member Torosian stated that there wasn't much to discuss, at this time, but, as we get further on, this committee should discuss the COLA.

Chair Smith made a motion to approve the as-proposed numbers. Member Torosian seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Vote: 6/0/0

Highway Department

Vice Chair Barker stated that there are two items that stand out in the budget: equipment repair and \$2/ hour raise for employees, over and above the 2% COLA.

Chair Smith asked if the Selectmen had looked at this presentation.

Administrator Cressman said the Selectmen have approved it.

Member Worden said that tree removal is up \$2000 but is in favor of it because it is helpful in storm-related situations and not getting behind in that area. He feels this is a really good budget and agrees that there should be an increase in wages for the employees.

Chair Smith made a motion to recommend the Highway Department as proposed. Member Worden seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Vote: 6/0/0

Grounds Maintenance

Chair Smith asked if the Selectmen had seen this presentation.

Administrator Cressman said the Selectmen have seen it.

Chair Smith made a motion to approve and Member Torosian seconded it. All members were in favor.

Vote: 6/0/0

Library

Member Malo is concerned with the Director leaving her position and a possible internal promotion to that position which would leave another vacancy.

Administrator Cressman said there is no internal candidate among the applicants.

Through various discussions, it was determined that health insurance would be the major concern considering no one knows the family situation of the potential new Director.

Vice Chair Barker stated that while the numbers, at this point, are out of our control, this committee should have a say in the negotiations.

Vice Chair Barker reminded the committee that this is just a first pass. Once more information is received, a second pass may be required.

Member Worden made a motion, as a first pass, to accept the budget as presented. Vice Chair Barker seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Vote: 6/0/0

Elder Services

Member Torosian pointed out that the Acting Director has implied that he is not interested in the position and asked if a replacement is being considered.

Administrator Cressman said there are no interviews for the position and everything is operating well.

Member Torosian made a motion to accept the budget. Member Worden seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Vote: 6/0/0

Vice Chair Barker said she would like to review the paperwork for health agencies.

Vice Chair Barker asked if we have submitted a proposal on propane, oil, and heating.

Administrator Cressman said that usually goes out this month. The oil was set in June to June 2020. Electricity is a four-year contract. Propane is the only concern since the distribution costs are not known.

Chair Smith said he received an e-mail from Jim Garrity regarding \$250 for the Energy Commission.

Chair Smith made a motion to accept the recommendation. Member Torosian seconded the motion.

All members were in favor. Vote: 6/0/0

Conflict of Interest

Chair Smith asked if there were any proposed numbers

Member Fournier said, to his knowledge, the numbers are staying the same with a possibility of change.

Member Torosian made a motion, as a first pass, to accept the budget for \$107. Vice Chair Barker seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Vote: 6/0/0

Debt Principle & Interest

Chair Smith made a motion to recommend the debt principle and debt interest sections as proposed. Member Worden seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Vote: 6/0/0

Recycling

Chair Smith made a motion to accept the recycling budget as proposed. Member Worden seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Vote: 6/0/0

Chair Smith made a motion to adjourn and Member Torosian seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Vote: 6/0/0

The Atkinson Budget Committee adjourned at 8:30 p.m.