

**TOWN OF ATKINSON  
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING  
Tuesday, October 08, 2019**

**Members Present**

Bill Smith, Chair  
Wendy Barker, Vice Chair  
Ray Fournier  
Bob Malo  
Bob Worden

**Others Present**

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**Agenda:** Minutes, Discussion on Department Presentations

**Minutes of 09/17/2019**

Approval of the minutes for 09/17/2019 has been postponed until the video is watched to clarify some concerns. Further revisions have been made and will be inserted.

**Minutes of 09/24/2019**

While the minutes had already been approved, some revisions had been made after approval.

Vice Chair Barker asked if there was any response to why there is a \$4000 increase for the Elections Moderator.

Member Worden stated that the moderator had not been contacted yet.

Chair Smith made a motion to accept the 9/24/2019 minutes with revisions. Member Worden seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Vote: 5/0/0**

**Minutes of 10/01/2019**

Chair Smith made a motion to approve the 10/01/2019 minutes as amended. Vice Chair seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Vote: 5/0/0**

**Chair Smith proposes that the committee goes through what has been presented, so far, and discuss initial thoughts.**

## Elections

Supervisor Barbera presented an amount that came to \$5,603 which appears to be 202% increase over the previous year which was \$1855. The reason for the increase is because this is an election year which will have more expenses.

Member Worden said the major concern was the moderator. Until the committee hears more regarding the moderator, it was suggested that any decisions be deferred.

Vice Chair Barker noted that the last election year, 2016, \$3100 was expended for the moderator and this presentation is asking for an additional \$1400.

Chair Smith said he would speak with Mr. Garrity.

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## Tax Collector

Vice Chair Barker stated that the large expenses would be under Technology.

Chair Smith said he has not seen any numbers voted on by the Selectmen.

Member Worden made a motion to accept the tax presentation as stated. Vice Chair Barker seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 5/0/0**

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## Cemetery

**Member Malo mentioned a concern for the cemetery running out of space.**

Vice Chair Barker said there is a long-term plan for that

Member Malo said he would contact the cemetery committee to learn if money should be set aside on an annual basis.

Vice Chair made a motion to approve the Cemetery budget. Member Worden seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 5/0/0**

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## Recreation

**Vice Chair Barker said that Recreation is looking for a raise for the counselors of Sun N Fun.**

Vice Chair Barker made a motion to approve the Recreation budget. Member Worden seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 5/0/0**

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## Community Center

**Member Worden stated that the increase is mostly for health insurance for the director and her husband.**

Member Worden made a motion to approve the Community Center budget as presented. Vice Chair Barker seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 5/0/0**

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Cable

**Chair Smith mentioned that there is a reduction in the Cable budget.**

Member Worden made a motion to accept the Cable budget as stated. Chair Smith seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 5/0/0**

Member Worden noted, regarding the warrant article for Closed Captioning, we are entitled to entity from State and Local government. It appears that we are in violation of the ADA requirements. Member Worden recommends that Closed Captioning should be reconsidered.

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## Town Clerk

**Vice Chair Barker noted that the increase was due to various reasons; changes in personnel and increase in education for the Town Clerk.**

Member Worden said having the all-in-one printer in one spot is critical to be able to turn over people at the desk efficiently.

Member Worden made a motion to approve the Town Clerk budget as presented. Vice Chair Barker seconded the motion. Four members were in favor; one abstained. **Vote: 4/0/1**

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## Planning and Zoning

Vice Chair Barker stated that the growth has been slower-paced due to the condo project and it is anticipated that it will be lower next year.

Vice Chair Barker made a motion to approve the Planning and Zoning budget as presented. Member Worden seconded the motion. Four members were in favor; one abstained. **Vote: 4/0/1**

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## Building Inspectors

**Member Malo stated that while it shows a big reduction in budget, it is also a big reduction in revenue.**

Vice Chair Barker made a motion to approve the Building Inspections budget as presented. Member Fournier seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 5/0/0**

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## Conservation

**Vice Chair Barker said the increase is due to the new recording clerk who is also shared by the Selectmen.**

Member Worden made a motion to approved the Conservation budget as presented. Vice Chair Barker seconded the motion. Four members were in favor; one abstained. **Vote: 4/0/1**

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## Budget Committee

Vice Chair Barker mentioned that the committee is \$1000 under our proposed budget for last year. She proposes to recommend to the Selectmen to raise the Budget Committee's recording clerk's salary from \$15 to \$18 to be in line with the rest of the clerks in town.

Chair Smith is concerned about how this would affect the overall budget.

Vice Chair Barker suggests that the committee vote for the committee's budget in its entirety at a later date and just vote for the recording clerk's salary now.

Chair Smith made a motion to ask the Selectmen to raise the recording clerk's salary to \$18. Vice Chair Barker seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 5/0/0**

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**Member Worden made a motion to adjourn and Member Fournier seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Vote: 6/0/0**

The Atkinson Budget Committee adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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