

TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN  
Budget Committee  
16 School Street  
Allenstown, New Hampshire 03275  
November 10, 2016

**Call to Order.**

The Allenstown Budget Committee Meeting for November 10, 2016 was called to order by the Chair at 6:01pm.

**Introductions:**

Larry Anderson, Fern Bissonnette, Mike Frascinella, Dave Coolidge, Mark Wilder, Tiffany Ranfos, Keith Klawes, Jeff Gryval, Shaun Mulholland Town Administrator, Karen Simmons Finance Director, Elaine Boisvert, Carol Angowski, Fran Severance.

**Personnel and Capitol Funds Update / Presentation of Town Budget:**

Mr. Gryval stated he wanted to bring everyone up to speed on a couple of things before the presentation. On Monday night at the Board of Selectman's meeting they voted to change a couple of things in the budget. One of the things changed was the cemetery line, it was \$800 and it was asked for by the trustees of the cemetery. He stated that they brought that line down to one dollar. He also stated that they added approximately \$3,400 to the IT line. Mr. Gryval stated that the reason they did what they did concerning the cemetery is because they've been dealing with not having a cemetery which is required by state law. They worked very hard to get this legislation passed at this last legislative session in Concord. Mr. Gryval stated that he doesn't believe they need to budget for the cemetery on their own; they want to work with surrounding communities to fulfill their cemetery obligations.

Mr. Gryval stated that last year when they approved the 2016 budget, in that money there was money for a police car. Every year they do that, this year the chief bought a new cruiser as he usually does. The oldest vehicle that was causing them the most issues was retired. So they still have the same amount of vehicles they had last year, but there has been a new cruiser that has been filtered into the system.

Mr. Gryval also stated that as some may remember they have been putting money away in a capitol reserve fund for highway equipment. The road agent was able to purchase a one ton dump truck this year. He is going to be using it for this area of town and up through the Notre Dame Ave area. It's a one ton dump truck but it also has a wing on it so it should make their job a little easier and quicker. The Town also retired a 1990 Ford dump truck which had rust holes and a rear end that was not working well. It gave us 26 years of service so it was time to retire it.

Mr. Gryval stated that there was no addition as far as apparatus to the fire department this year. Mr. Gryval stated that one of the big problems they've had in years past, very expensive for the town, was turnover in personnel especially in the police department. They had one person leave this year he was originally an SRO (School Resource Officer). When that position was no longer utilized in town he became a patrol officer. He wanted to continue his career as an SRO so he moved to a community east of here. That position we're actively pursuing filling that, the Chief will be bringing a candidate to us in the next week or two. The sworn officers of the PD will remain the same at 10, same as last year.

Question Posed: Where are we now retiring these vehicles, where are they going?

Mr. Gryval stated that it depends on the condition of the vehicle. As far as the highway department vehicle goes it was not serviceable, it could not go on the road, it had no value. Our Road Agent Ron Pelissier worked out a deal with a repair shop, they agreed to do work on a vehicle Ron has in exchange for this old truck they wanted to use for parts. So he was able to save the town some money on repair work on one of the trucks that's still in the fleet and at the same time get rid of it without having to pay towing costs. As far as the police vehicle, they always take the most used and troublesome vehicle out of operation. If it's still good enough to be used it's either filtered down to the fire department or to the highway department to be used. In any event the old vehicle gets traded in to get the new one.

Question Posed: So all of these changes like the cemetery line and the IT line, those have been adjusted in the budget that we're looking at now or are those adjustments we need to make as we go over the budget?

Mr. Mulholland stated that they have the adjusted budgets.

End personnel and capitol funds update.

### **Presentation of Town Budget:**

Mr. Gryval starts slideshow and states there is an increase in the budget. There's a 1% increase in the proposed budget for 2017. The Board of Selectman has made the decision to start linking spending to the consumer price index. The consumer price index has risen approximately 1% and so has the proposed budget for 2017.

### **Board of Selectman:**

Mr. Gryval stated for the Board of Selectman the budget process is on-going, it's a continuous process that lasts all year long. The budget cycle usually ends on election-day in March and shortly after that we begin to look at what may need to change, how we're structured for the coming year and what direction we want to give to our department heads and chairpersons for that next year.

Mr. Gryval stated that this year on May 23<sup>rd</sup> the Board of Selectman issued two main directions to the department heads. One was to implement the wage classification system town wide, it was started in the police department and we felt it was very important to continue it town wide. The other piece of that is to keep their spending right to the consumer price index at a 1% increase but maintain the same level of service. They were also told they need to do more planning for the future, more strategic planning beyond 2017; 3 year plan, 5 year plan, and so on.

### **Consumer Price Index:**

Mr. Gryval populates next slide and states what is seen in blue is the town appropriations and everything in red is the consumer price index. In 2014 there was a spike in spending at 9.3% increase that was the year in the last seven that their budget was not passed. The budget was voted down at town elections and the default budget was in place, which was substantially more than what we asked for. The money that was not asked for was turned back at the end of the year.

Mr. Gryval continues to say you see a 6.1% increase in spending with a 3% CPI, 5.3% to a 2%, so it's all over the place. Post 2014 you see a decline of 0.3% when we had a -.1% CPI. Last year's budget for 2016 was a 1% increase and again for 2017 we're proposing the same increase. What you see trending for the past 3 years, is what we're hoping to see in the future we're hoping to level things. Our plan is to keep the budget in line with the CPI and as predictable and level as possible.

### **Wage Classification System:**

Mr. Gryval states the wage classification system, it's important because one of the most expensive things that we do as far as personnel goes the turnover rate especially in the police department. Also when we have brought new people into the town to replace the people who have moved on, it was always a question as to what we were going to pay them. With the Wage Classification System we are able to compare surrounding towns of similar size and capacity has been paying their employees. It's beneficial because we know when we hire someone, what their value is to the town. We can see what they have for education, skills, and what they've done in the past and we can put them in our wage scale system. Also we can forecast out 10 years budget wise, what our employees will be making; which is important for long term strategic budgeting. Part of the wage classification system was that we were not giving any cost of living increases to anyone, the reason being with the wage classification system over half of our employees saw a raise. The other half that did not see raises are within the fair pay scale.

### **Health Insurance:**

Mr. Gryval states that's an area that's been going through the roof, yet they have no control over it. In 2016 along with the Suncook Valley Regional Town Association, we did another health insurance study; study showed we needed to address the amount of claims. Currently our

employees have an HMO service. We decided we'll be switching this service to an HMO site of service plan. This is cheaper for the town as well as the employee. With an HMO you get checked out, pay your co-pay and you're done. With HMO site of service you use a provider in town and pay less for the same services than original location/hospital. Haven't gotten negative feedback, overall employees seem to like it. All of the plans they had available had a 6.7% increase in the premiums, they're seeing the same 6.7% in the site of service plan. Even with the reduction in the plan and the increase they're still seeing a net savings to the town.

Mr. Gryval speaks about the implementation of a healthcare reimbursement (HRA). One thing about this HRA is when an employee moves on from that position the money from that does not go with them, it stays with the town. And even with the 6.7% increase in premiums they're still seeing a cost reduction in health insurance for the town employees due to the change in plans.

### **Retirement System:**

Mr. Gryval states that these numbers had just come in July and this is a fee that they have no control over. The Group I employees increased by 1.88%, police Group II went up by 11.56% and fire Group 3 went up by 9.36%. In real terms, for the fire Group II that 9.36% increase, for every \$100 of pensionable compensation that a fire employee gets \$31.89 is paid by the town towards their retirement and \$31.89 is paid by the firefighter to their retirement. Same goes for police at \$29.43 and the Group I employees at \$11.48.

### **Taxes Outstanding:**

Mr. Gryval stated that they are still collecting 2016 taxes so they do not have exact numbers on that yet.

### **Tax Rate History:**

Mr. Gryval stated in the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 they showed about a 35 cent decrease in 2015 and with the 1% increase that was asked for last year in the budget, there was a 5 cent increase in the municipal tax rate.

The taxes committed are the total amount of money that we need to raise through taxes to run the town. That includes the town itself and the school system. That has gone up to about 8.3 million in 2016. We have 5 major objectives going into 2017, there is the downtown redevelopment, road projects, cyber security, the highway facility, and to maintain our qualified personnel.

The downtown re-development is made up of 4 projects. The town along with Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission and Plan NH held a two day event. Plan NH brought in several experts in the field of redevelopment of city scapes and town areas. There was a developer, city planner that brought a wide range of expertise when looking at our downtown area.

The four scopes of the project would be number one, economic development. We want to see commercial and residential growth in this area. Also, revitalize the residential neighborhoods.

There are grants and things available to help homeowners do so. Second scope of the project is connectivity, this may involve expanding some of the sidewalks and what it's going to cost to maintain that. Also the old railroad bed, we're hoping to turn it into some walking trails or bicycle trails. We'd like to work with some surrounding towns on this project, since they have similar goals for their town we will be meeting with them in 2017. Another project is road work in 2017, the Road agent is looking reconstructing parts of Deerfield Road from Highfield Drive to Mount Delight Road and River Road phase 2 project.

Question Posed by Carol Angowski: Where is Phase 2 going to be?

Mr. Gryval: Phase 2 is going to be a continuation of where Phase 1 left off.

Question from Carol Angowski: Phase 1 goes to Granite St, is it going further than that?

Mr. Gryval: No it's a finishing coat on what's already been laid.

Carol Angowski expressed concern about the equipment used and the vibration she felt while they were doing work. Mr. Gryval stated that they will continue to work next year as an identified need. She asked to get a speed bump laid out – Mr. Gryval said that would be a good conversation for another time. He suggested speaking with Ron and the police chief to help her out with traffic concerns.

Mr. Gryval moves on to cyber security initiatives, email encryptions. Expresses that they need to get their email encryptions up to the current standard. The police and fire department along with some banking information have confidential and secure information.

Also one of the main focuses in 2017 is a new highway facility. The current facility is in desperate need of repair that is long overdue. For the last several years money has been added to the capital reserve fund for this purpose.

Lastly, it's critical to the town to maintain and train all of their personnel. The police department is the most expensive to replace a person, right now it's up to \$40,000 to replace an officer.

### **Capital Projects:**

Capital Projects for the five year projections, the highway facility will remain up there until project is completed. However it's unsure if that will be completed in 2017. There was an assessment done of the fire department, one takeaway was that there is a CO problem in the Bay Area. They're also re-pointing the bricks at the Town Hall, which is grinding out old mortar and replacing it with new. That project is still on-going and hopefully will be completed in the next few weeks (weather permitting). The projects that need to be done to the Town Hall are the gutters, the back parking lot (pot holes), and LED lighting fixtures at the town hall, police and fire department. Road reconstruction, Webster St. and Whitten St. need to be worked on over the next several years. The next part of Deerfield Rd. beyond 2017 this will take us up to the state marker up to Clearview Dr. Library St. and Webster St. is a project they want to work on in conjunction with the sewer department; Will be discussed in more detail at next week's meeting. Elm St., Reserve St., and Willow St. are all in tough shape and need repairs. Valley St. and Theodore Ave. are all on the highway department's radar. There is no particular order in which the streets get addressed; it's based on what happens throughout the winter and storm months.

Last capital project is the SCBA fire equipment, the breathing apparatus they use when going into the buildings. They're due to be replaced by 2020, there has been money put away for this expense and it will be continuing this year as well.

End Presentation.

### **Q & A:**

Statement from ?: Regarding the CPI, we're one of the highest taxed towns in the state and I think it will make it hard for people to stay in this town due to the increase.

Mr. Gryval: No that's not entirely accurate, if you take a look at what other towns are doing and are faced with like increases in retirement and healthcare. One town was saying they have a 28% increase in healthcare spending this year. We're trying to be proactive and creative to keep spending down. Without these initiatives we'd have to seriously consider cutting services or a higher tax increase.

Mr. ?: I agree and I hear what you're saying but since we're in one of the highest taxed towns, the towns people, like myself, can't keep dealing with spending more of our earnings to pay increased taxes. We need to start doing something; I don't care if it is reducing services.

Mr. Gryval: If we were to start cutting services, it depends on what services those are. That debate has been going on for years. I believe that the ramping of the tax rate is something we have under control. 3 years ago we had a .79% decrease in your taxes, by stabilizing our spending; we're going to stabilize our tax rate.

Dave: I don't see that as the real problem, I see it as when they start re-assessing the properties at higher rates, it's not so much the tax rates we're sitting at now it's when Elaine's house is re-assessed at another 40-50k, what'd we just go up another \$1.08?

Mr. Gryval: Let me clarify, it went up \$1.03 but that was out of our control in the town or in the school. It has a lot to do with the people we're electing in Concord that keep funneling less money back to us. You're municipal tax rate went up by 5 cents.

Dave: I've made this argument time again, this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year the last 2 years the Social Security recipients got zero. This year we get a third of a percent, which means to the average person, that's 3-12 bucks a month. Our Medicare is going up. If the affordable care act is scuttled (?) we'll be getting letters about Medicare, a lot of this stuff that's included in insurance plans, is tied to the affordable care act. If that's scuttled, we'll be sitting here next year, you think health care costs are going through the roof you've haven't seen anything yet. Last year, I don't remember the quote exactly but I got a "suck it up Dave!"

Mr. Gryval: I never said anything to you in that nature.

Dave: Yes you did, when I made the comment about what do people on fixed incomes do and you made some comment either "live with it" or "suck it up" or "you figure it out." They're predicting within the next 10-15 years the Town of Allenstown will be about 3,000 people. You think they'll be paying 50-60 bucks? In the 7 years I've been on this board, the cost of educating kids, went from \$12,000 - \$17,000. How long is that going to be sustainable?

Mr. Gryval: Dave, I can't speak to the school budget.

Dave: We all pay it, though. It's part of the overall tax

Mr. Gryval: So the question we'll ask is, do you or Mike, or anyone else on the board that says cut services have suggestions to lower it? We can speak words back and forth all night long like we have for 3 years. You say it's because we keep electing the same people in Concord, but how are we going to fix that? If you don't like our budget that we have right here what are your suggestions to lower it?

Dave: I don't have a problem with the municipal, my problem is with the school.

Mr. Gryval: Right now we're not talking about the school budget that is not going to be until December.

Question from woman ?: Does the town get any federal money?

Mr. Gryval: What do you mean federal money?

Woman: in other words, grants bonds etc?

Mr. Gryval: Yes, we go for grants all the time. The fire department applies for grants, the police chief has gotten some for traffic control and DWI patrols. They're in the budget. Other towns have a staff of grant writers, we cannot afford that. We have some department heads that do that and Shaun has been very good at doing it and has very good results.

Another woman: Unless you get more revenues in, you have to look how the town is divided up in tax paying population if you will. I've gone through some of the budgets and I think they're very skinny, the department heads are doing a phenomenal job at holding the line. You mentioned the school, unfortunately with school it's all state mandated. Unless you have something specific going back to Keith's comment, is there an area in particular you'd like us to dig deep in? I don't know how we could get this any skinnier besides cutting our services.

Dave: If you're making a \$100k and the taxes on your house is \$5k, you're paying 5% of your income in taxes. If you're at \$20k your social security, your wife and yourself and you're paying \$5k in taxes you're paying 20% in taxes. It's an inequitable tax system, everyone knows it but no one wants to talk about it. It's a ludacris tax system.

Chair: We can't control the ludacris tax system on our town.

Dave: I know, I'm just venting, I have no problem with the town tax system.

Chair: To save time, do we have any questions for our department heads or anyone in the room to answer specific questions about the budget?

Speaker ?: I was looking at the town admin budget and it said that town had no long-term debt and a no interest of \$15k. I was wondering what that was.

Mr. Mulholland: That's the money that's put aside in the event we need to pay interest on tax anticipation notes. Hasn't been used in 20 years and we plan to keep it that way.

Woman speaker: I have two questions... Parks and Rec 32% increase, what's driving that number?

Several people: The building

Woman speaker: the other question is finance of 22% from prior year...

Mr. Mulholland: Couple of reasons, one we have to conduct a re-evaluation of all of the parcels of land in the town starting next year. We do it every 5 years, we have to do it a year early because of the equalization is down to 90% instead of 100%. Second part of that are salaries, we re-organized the welfare administrator function. That was 15 hours a week and now down to 5. The administrative assistant has taken over that role. The finance director is doing just finance.

Woman speaker: So the towns equalization ratio based of tax assessment is only at 90%?

Mr. Mulholland: Yes, just got that figure this week.

Another Woman Speaker: The health reimbursement act that you were talking about, the only thing I know about it is from the employee side. So what I know is that its employee funded, so why do we have a budget?

Mr. Mulholland: So the health reimbursement account is an employer funded account. The FSA (Flexible Spending Account) is an employee funded account. The employees contribute to that and employers can contribute to that, but the town does not. Then there's health savings account, that can be employer funded or employee funded. We do not have HSAs. The difference is whatever the employer puts into the health savings account; if the employee leaves they take it with them, it's quarterly. The health reimbursement account, whatever the town puts in minus that which is used remains with the town. So they get the service that they need but they don't make a profit off of it.

Male Speaker: So all the stocks made \$45k and that was divided between all the capital reserves.

Woman Speaker: Okay the capital reserves that sat in your portfolio

Male: Right...If you notice on your MS9 on the right hand column, there's \$1.8 million and the second one is only \$1.7, that's the profit. If I sold them all today you'd get \$1.87 million...

Same woman speaker: In regards to the trust funds, the trustees Matt and I attended that meeting with the investment broker. They inferred that their needs to be an investment policy in place, because the RSA states that you cannot invest in a risky investment. Money's that are raised from tax payer money...

Chair: Let's hold off on any trust fund stuff until we get through the budget. Are there any more questions regarding the budget?

Woman speaker: I have one regarding the solid waste one... Under your solid waste collection we've been 101k, we were 104 last year, so it's up to 108,767, so what's the \$35k increase?

Mr. Mulholland: Contract

Woman: And that's the contract that they have no control over, right?

Mr. Mulholland: Well the contract has set pricing...

Additional Male Speaker: a few years back we signed a ten year contract and this is part of a negotiated increase.

Mike: Question...In the packet of budgets there was one called ambulance, but it was totally different than what's on the back of the tri-town narrative. Can someone explain that? The numbers are totally different, this one has a large loss for the coming year. It says total budget for



2017, \$933k and it says total revenue at the top, \$744. So it looks like the budget is higher than the revenue.

Mr. Mulholland: there's money coming out of reserve funds balance to pay for an ambulance. Our budget shows the money we plan to use from that fund.

Mike: So currently what other towns are paying into this?

Mr. Mulholland: There's 3 ways that's funded, tax payer funds from Pembroke, tax payer funds from Allenstown, and revenues we bring in from collections.

Mike: So this is misleading because it doesn't break it down...

Mr. Gryval: Actually it tells you right on page 2, and I think you'll be pleased to see there's a decrease. In previous years we saw a spike but we asked you to be patient with us as we try to level it out.

Mr. Mulholland: It will not continue to go down, it will go up eventually. Because of the uncertainty with healthcare and the cost of healthcare, it's just a matter of time before it goes up. And I suspect we'll get fewer revenues from fees and more tax payer dollars will be needed in the future. .

Chair: Any other questions as far as the budget go?

Male Speaker: I had a question on the rent... this \$33k in rent, what do we rent?

Mr. Mulholland: Welfare rent – so if someone can't pay their rent that meet certain criteria, we subsidize it. That's a projected number for 2017.

Woman speaker: the welfare salaries, the default is \$20,437 and the requested is \$5k... why such a big discrepancy?

Mr. Mulholland: We changed the position, changing the hours from 15 – 5 and the person who does it now gets paid a lower salary.

Different woman speaker: question about the fire department...the line for building repair. Is that increase because of the solar panels?

Mr. Mulholland: No, that's an increase for general repairs

Woman speaker: no I'm looking at your expenditure line, year to date expenses

Mr. Mulholland: two years ago we used our budget and we tried to get it more in line with what we do every day. So last year was the second year of that, so now I have two years of solid numbers of what it costs to run our building. The overage in that line was just a result of under budgeting last year.

Woman speaker: we have an encumbrant, so \$87,015

Mr. Mulholland: We have a purchase order out that has yet to be approved

End Questions.

**Motion to Accept:**

Chair: Would anyone like to make a motion to accept?

Fern: I make a motion to accept.

Dave: I second

Chair: All those in favor say I, all those opposed say nay.

One no from Mike, everyone else said yes. No abstentions.

### **Expenditure Reports:**

Chair asks if there are any questions regarding the expenditure reports.

Woman ?: Why \$31k in deficit?

Mr. Mulholland: Money got moved over, the allotted amount in the budget will be increased by \$31k coming in from capital reserve.

Woman ?: The highway department engineering is now at a deficit of \$10k, does that have to do with the roads?

Mr. Mulholland: No that's for the water testing.

Fire Safety Capital Reserve Fund:

Vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10k to be added to the fire safety capital reserve fund.

This is the SCBA gear, we'd like to put the \$10k into that account.

Chair asks if there are any questions.

Woman ?: How much of that fund be to get those air vacuums?

Mr. Mulholland: There's already money in that account, we've been funding it for several years.

Male ?: What's the current balance?

Woman ?: \$112k so it would make it \$122k

Male ?: What's our goal?

Mr. Gryval ?: \$220k we need to make before 2020

Woman ?: So we need \$100k in three years...?

Mr. Gryval: Yes, we've been looking at what funds we can appropriate into this capital reserve without raising taxes.

Woman ?: So what's the thought process going into the next couple of years? Is it to wait and see what's left over or...

Mr. Mulholland: it would be wise for the board to develop a long term strategy for this, we don't have that right now. There are some options available to us, but raising taxes at the rate we have been is not sustainable.

Whatever we don't spend in a year, or extra revenues we have all go into the unassigned fund balance at the end of the year.

**Library Capital Reserve Fund:**

Another article that does not impact the tax rate, the Town of Allenstown will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,221 to be added to the library capital reserve fund. In the past, when the library has had money left over in their budget at the end of the year, it was automatically reverted back to them. We have found that the correct way of doing it is through a warrant article. In order to give the left over money back to the library we have to go through this process.

Male Speaker: What's going to happen when people don't understand what they're reading and creation of library fund down but then vote to appropriate the \$10k?

Mr. Mulholland: It's moved.

Mike: I don't like the idea of them setting the precedent whatever money they have left over from the budget they want to put it into next year's budget by putting it into a capital reserve fund. I can see it if they need a reserve fund to replace physical equipment or a heating system.

Male Speaker: This gives the library trustee's the ability to spend that money for the facility. Not to buy books but only for the facility.

Woman Speaker: The library gets a lot of grants as well, we got a grant to replace the windows, insulate, putting carpeting in.

Mr. Mulholland: usually the left over funds are in the hundreds, not thousands.

Woman Speaker: then why is there such an increase?

Mr. Mulholland: that was the 2015 budget.

Woman Speaker: We got a lot of grants in, we had a change in personnel, and we cut down the hours. We had done some savings and unfortunately we saved too much. In anticipation in case they didn't receive the grants.

**Highway Garage Capital Reserve Fund:**

This article does not impact tax rates. To see if the Town of Allenstown will raise appropriate sum of \$10k to be added to the fund. The sum will come from the unassigned funds balance. There have been funds that have been added to this fund for several years. There is currently \$194k in the account.

Woman Speaker: Do we have any idea what this would cost?

Mr. Gryval: the objective of 2017 isn't to get the garage built but to push us in the right direction.

Woman Speaker: To identify a site, it wouldn't be there would it?

Mr. Gryval: It could be. There are various properties around town that it could possibly be at as well. Last year we put in \$15k.

Woman Speaker: a little bit is better than nothing, but it is going to take us forever.

Chad Pelissier: a big ticket item like this, aren't we better off bonding it? Then we're buying it at \$216k instead of \$226k. It's going to be twice as much come 2026

Chair: A little bit yes, and a little bit no. But looking back at the building spike in 2001, would you rather spend your 2001 dollars or your 2016 dollars?

Male Speaker: So we're going to hope it crashes?

Chair: No, but which way do you go?

Male Speaker: Yeah, there are so many people under water.

Male Speaker: I think adding money every year is a small amount, if you decide to go for a bond. I know it looks like we're just throwing pennies at it but

Chair: from where we are a year ago, the pennies we're throwing at it would be nice to go ahead and see.

Woman Speaker: Well it has accumulated, we could pay for an engineer.

Chair: Do we need an engineer or can we bring in a student who can do it for their capstone project?

Woman: that's a great idea. You can work on that.

### **Public Safety's Facilities Capital Reserve Fund:**

This article does not impact tax rates. To see if the Town of Allenstown will raise appropriate sum of \$10k to be added to the fund, previously established. The sum will come from the unassigned funds balance. The public safety facilities would be the fire department and the police department buildings. Current balance of fund is \$6,300.

Woman Speaker: Are there any big things coming up the pipeline for those two buildings?

Mr.: Gryval Yes, we're changing all our heating systems out. We're in the process of fixing one and they recommend we replace the other two.

Woman Speaker: did they give you an estimate on that?

Dana Pendergast: Yes, \$22k and approximately \$70k for a CO system. For those two items I've written grants for in the past years. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful but we're in the process of re-writing them. We're also in need of a new air compressor which is around \$70k.

Woman Speaker: The police station doesn't need anything.

Male Speaker: We've been keeping up with the heating system.

Woman Speaker: For the heating system is that something you bid out to get estimates and you just go with...?

Male Speaker: we go out and get bids.

Male Speaker: How old are these heating systems?

Dana Pendergast: The one in my station is 15 years old, unfortunately when the building was built they tried to put it together as cheap as possible.

Dave: Previous years, how many default budgets did we go through prior to the 2010 budget process? That's when the taxes started to really go through the roof.

Woman Speaker: As far as being an SB town, the year that it spiked we were on a default budget. Had the budget been approved it would have been less. People have the mentality now that they vote no without reading.

Dave: Are you blaming it on being an SB town?

Another Woman Speaker: yes and no because SB 2, if you complain at the public hearing the way you have how many people were in that audience? Maybe 100?

Dave: I understand that, I won't get into the election.

Woman Speaker: I've been to both, it's my money I want to know where it's going.

Chair: it's 7:30pm we have a few things on the trust fund statement that was sent out today. Do we have any questions on that?

Chair: Is there a need for a trustee? Did I see that someone resigned?

Male Speaker: I have an alternate thank god, but there's just us two.

Another Male Speaker: Just this week we had a resident that's volunteered his services, his name is Roger Laflamme. He's worked in banking all of his life, he's now retired.

Several Speakers: He was on the budget committee last year, he dropped out.

Chair: He was actually filling a role and he didn't seek re-election.

Chair asks if there are any questions about the trust fund.

Chair: I collected the minutes from the August meeting I collected in September. There were so many mistakes on it that it was easier to take everyone's suggestions and put them back. Anyone have a chance to go over those and have any other corrections?

Woman Speaker: I scanned it.

Motion. Dave made a motion to accept the August minutes. Carol seconded the motion. All was in favor. There was no additional discussion.

## **New Business**

Elaine: I wanted to mention, what happened at the Meet Me Suncook meeting, I co-chair that committee. Our minutes are posted on the website correct?

Male Speaker: Yes

Woman Speaker: What happened at our last Suncook meeting, someone went into the town website and found out who the town treasurer was who the chair was, and sent an email from my email address to our treasurer to wire funds out for \$2,500. She called me because there was a discussion in those minutes that we were sending money. So it was a legitimate amount and it came from the right parties but it was scam. They wanted the funds wired to Wells Fargo. They brought it to the attention of Dave and he said from now on we're not going to put in members and email addresses.

Chair: The big key in those scams is the word "wired." Anytime you see the word wired it should put up a red flag.

Elaine: So heads up in case you get something like that.

Chair asked if there are any other questions on the town expenditure report. Stated that is something they can talk about next month since he had only sent it out that day.

### **Next Meetings**

Chair stated that Kris Raymond couldn't be in attendance as there was a SAU wide school board meeting tonight to talk about budgets. Stated the third Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, is when the school board is planning on presenting. Dr. Paludi can't make it that Thursday, the next Thursday is the 22<sup>nd</sup> and felt it was too close to the holiday. Asked how everyone felt about moving it from the second Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> to the second Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. No opposition to moved date.

### **Old Business**

Woman Speaker: if we need to re-visit any budgets we can do that correct?

Male Speaker: Yes.

Motion. Fern made a motion to adjourn. Fran seconded the Motion. There was no further discussion. All was in favor.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN  
Budget Committee  
16 School Street  
Allenstown, New Hampshire 03275

**Signature Page**

Original Approval:	
KEITH KLAUES, CHAIRMAN	DATE

Amendment Approvals:		
Amendment Description:	Approval:	Date:
	<i>Keith Klaues</i>	9/21/2016
	KEITH KLAUES, CHAIRMAN	DATE