

# Meeting Notice

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## Allenstown Municipal Budget Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 21st, 2017

6:00 P.M.

## Community Center

8 Whitten Street, Allenstown, NH

### Agenda:

- [Call To Order](#)

**Present at the meeting:** Carol Angowski, Dave Coolidge, Melaine Boisvert, Tiffany Ranfos, Keith Klawess, Kris Raymond (School Board Rep), Deb Carney, Chad Pelissier, Mark Wilder, Dave Eaton (BOS Rep); Jeff Venegas; Ron Cox

**Town:** Shaun Mulholland

**School:** Shannon Kruger (ARD principal), David Ryan (Superintendent)

**Sewer:** Carl Caporale; Jeff Backman

- [Introductions](#)

- [Review of Minutes](#)

- 1/14/17 – Tabled for Mrs. Raymond to fix errors.
- 2/16/17– Motion to accept minutes as amended: Mrs. Raymond; Seconded by Mrs. Carney. **All approved** with exception of Abstentions from: Mr. Venegas; Mr. Eaton; Mr. Cox; Mrs. Boisvert.
- 3/23/17– Motion to accept minutes as amended: Mrs. Ranfos; Seconded by Mr. Eaton. **All approved** with exception of Abstentions from: Mr. Eaton; Mr. Klawes; Mr. Venegas.
- 4/20/17 – Motion to accept minutes as amended: Ms. Angowski; Seconded by Mr. Cox. **All approved** with exception of Abstentions from: Mrs. Ranfos; Mrs. Raymond; Mrs. Boisvert.
- 5/18/17 – Motion to accept minutes: Mr. Eaton; Seconded by Mrs. Carney. **All approved** with exception of Abstentions from: Mrs. Boisvert; Mr. Pelissier
- 11/10/16– Motion to accept minutes: Mrs. Boisvert; Seconded by Ms. Angowski. **All approved** with exception of Abstentions from: Mrs. Carney; Mr. Eaton; Mr. Pelissier; Mrs. Raymond.
- 12/14/16– Motion to accept minutes as amended: Mr. Eaton; Seconded by Ms. Angowski. **All approved.**

- **State of the Town:** Mr. Eaton:
  - Solar panels on the fire station. All installed and operational. Proposal to put solar panels on the Community Center. Mr. Klawes: Is the negotiations that we're going to lease them? Or, will we purchase and send electricity back to grid. Mr. Mulholland: We don't own those on the fire station. We'll buy the power back from them at 10% the wholesale rate. Mr. Mulholland is bringing this proposal before the BOS. Mrs. Boisvert: are the solar panels on the fire station powering up the library? Mr. Mulholland: About 60% excess in credits is subsidizing the library electricity needs. We couldn't do it on the Community Center because the state didn't have Net Metering back then. Now we can. Mr. Wilder: Can we set up a solar farm somewhere? Mr. Mulholland: You need a lot of land. In order to power back to the grid, you have to have a 3 phase grid which is a different system. Mr. Pelissier: Are they doing both sides of the Community Center? Mr. Mulholland: Still waiting on the plan. Mrs. Boisvert: Can we put solar panels on the Town Hall and Schools? Mr. Mulholland said you need a good position of the roof and you want a relatively new roof, which the schools don't have.
  - Received \$76K from the state for roadway projects and we have the work done. Mr. Mulholland this year has been great because of that money from the state, we've gotten a ton of work done this year on the roads. We're working on the CIP and moving some projects further up that were farther out. Mr. Eaton : Fire Dept Engine 3 was in for repairs. Ladder Truck is out of service and it's \$20K to fix. Plan to auction that 1991 ladder truck off. Old Rescue Truck was actioned off for \$9,900. Mrs. Boisvert: are we going to see the Ladder Truck as a Warrant Article. Mr. Mulholland said it's part of the CIP and will be replaced with a smaller multipurpose truck. Rescue Boat is really old. There's also a foundation crack issue at the Fire Station with a \$48K quote. We have a new fire chief – Chief Pendergast resigned end of August. We had an external consultant from MRI to be a fire chief. We hired him as Interim. Shawn Murray is hired on a 1 year contract. Mr. Klawes: is he acting as Code Enforcement? No, we have a separate contractor to do that. We're in discussions with Epsom for Code Officer and Health Officer to share theirs.
  - Economic Development Commission: Ryan Carter is the selectman's rep for that. They are reviewing land for sale and discussing uses for that. Acquire state owned land off River Rd, by the state shed. There's HB 316 that has passed with Tax Exemptions for Industrial and Commercial projects. That has been asked by the BOS to be viewed by the Economic Development Commission. HB324 – Utility Tax Assessment. Would add \$0.34 to the muni tax rate. It will come back to Legislative Session this January. Mr. Mulholland believes the BOS will ask him to testify on this bill. Planning NH Charette – had discussions on the Rail Trail. Looking at different avenues on that but it would involve purchases pieces of land. Boat Landing – we have done an Invitation to Bid on that. State would pay 50% of the cost to build the boat landing. Town would have to find the other 50%. Charette also created Suncook Village commission. Creating a new business

overlay district. Encompasses both Pembroke and Allenstown. They're in process of drafting the overlay and once complete there will be a public hearing.

- Public Works Committee – looking at Allenstown Aggregate. Mr. Mulholland said we're looking at a piece of that which we don't own to connect to our piece that we already own. Being looked at for the new Highway Garage.
- Tri Town EMS and Allenstown Fire Dept received Service Awards. Tri Town Ambulance is the Ambulance of the Year.
- Tax Rate should be set around mid October. Still waiting for School Data to be submitted to DRA.
- 2018 Budgets: Selectman will start to review on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Carney: Assessments of the town: How did those go? Everyone went up. Do they lower the tax rate to offset? Mr. Mulholland: It works that you change the entire playing field. What impacts taxes is what you spend. More money was approved to be spent, the tax rate will go up. Mr. Mulholland said all the MS forms we use are on the Town Website.

- [State of the Schools](#) – Presentation by Mrs. Kruger.



Allenstown Annual  
Report 17 - 18.pdf

- [Review of Expenditure and Revenue Reports](#)

- Town – Little to no questions asked of Mr. Mulholland.
- School – Mrs. Raymond presented final FY16/17 . The grand total for potential surplus to offset taxes is \$267,821, but Mrs. Raymond said the School Board voted to Retain \$75,000 leaving \$192,821 to offset taxes. Lots of discussion on Warrant article for capital reserve for the Schools. Mr. Mulholland: Let's say in March we vote for \$5K in capital reserve and it gets voted. The town has to raise that \$5K funds to get the capital reserve funded. The schools do not have the same opportunities for capital reserve accounts that the town has. They cannot easily put surplus funds into capital reserves because it has to be as funds raised by the town. Mrs. Raymond mentioned that the School is holding a Budget Only meeting on Monday, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> at AES.
- Sewer –Mr. Klawes asked about pump project. Mr. Backman: signed contract for engineering; waiting on approval from state; construction is starting next summer. Engineer has to get easements from the home owner. May have to go eminent domain route. Mrs. Ranfos: Why have we not reached out to them yet? Mr. Caporale: We have reached out numerous times with certified mail. We started this dialog many years ago. Mrs. Ranfos: Why don't we start with Eminent Domain now? Mr. Caporale: We want to give him an opportunity to respond. Mrs. Boisvert: What's happening with lawsuit with Pembroke? Mr. Mulholland: it's before the Supreme Court. Mrs. Boisvert: We won the first case and now they're appealing? Mr. Mulholland: Yes. Mrs. Carney asked for brief summary of the case: It's about the Septage Haulers and that Pembroke wants a piece of that. Mrs. Carney asked about new housing in Pembroke and Mr. Caporale confirmed they did come ask the Sewer. Mr. Caporale said because of the state of

where we are in the lawsuit, we could not render a decision right now. Mrs. Boisvert: Does it impact capacity at the plant. Mr. Backman; Yes. Mr. Klawes: Page 3 expenses: \$91,000 deficit? Mr. Backman said one of the items under encumbrance was for a blower that failed. We've had to get outside assistance for projects as well. Much of our equipment is very old. We maintain as best we can and then seek outside service when we can't fix. Mr. Klawes: How does this affect the rate payers? Mr. Backman: it does not. Mr. Caporale said rate has not historically moved. Some years it decreases or stays level. Mr. Cox: Question on \$71K expense. Mr. Backman: New septage dumpster that we had to use capital reserve for to buy, however we haven't received capital reserve. Mr. Klawes: question on chemicals. Looking at \$10K more than what you budgeted for. Mr. Backman: Polymer has to do with hauled waste and we've received more hauled waste because some plants have shut down. Mr. Caporale: The major plant that shut down has reopened, but if they have any issues, that revenue will come back to us. Mr. Cox: Percentage remaining is what we see on the report? Mr. Backman; Yes, that is what we have left for the year. Mr. Klawes: the Hauled waste: Do you notice when that increases? Mr. Backman: Spring and Fall are the busiest for spring thaw and to prep for winter. Mr. Wilder: The revenue you are short: Mr. Backman: We still have 2 quarters of sewer rents and a few months of hauler sewage revenue still to collect for the remainder of the year.

- **Old Business**
  - Dates of Bud Comm. Meetings for budget proposals/review
- **New Business** – None.
- **Next Meeting 10/19/17**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:01pm with a motion from Mrs. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Coolidge.**

*Meetings may be taped audibly and or by video for the purpose of written minutes. Special accommodations for individuals with disabilities are available upon request (Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990).*

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

**Signature Page**

**Original Approval:**

<i>Keith Klawes</i>	9/2017
KEITH KLAWES, CHAIRMAN	DATE

<b>Amendment Approvals:</b>		
<b>Amendment Description:</b>	<b>Approval:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
	<i>Keith Klawes</i>	9/21/2017
	KEITH KLAWES, CHAIRMAN	DATE