

MINUTES: ALEXANDRIA BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING 10/12/2021

Chair Don Paiva commenced the meeting at 6:05 pm. with all members present. Bob Piehler present to represent the Selectmen's Office. Mike Provost read the minutes from the Budget Committee meeting on 09/20/21 several corrections were noted then a motion was granted ,moved for a acceptance by Chair Paiva second by Doug Benton all members in favor.

At 6:10 pm Highway Agent Paul Sirard handed out a packet which containing his proposed budget and Warrant Articles for year 21-22. Paul's line-item operating budget was strait forward with little change, actually coming slightly under budget from last years. Paul's warrant article requests mentioned the on-going leases needed to retain his equipment,2017 Freightliner Truck,2016 Backhoe, and 2017 Ford 550 Truck all have final lease payments coming up. The warrant article for Paving(Bryant Paving) preferred vendor was discussed and Shem Valley Road Bridge by Hanson Contractor(Preferred Vendor) discussed along with the states red flagged bridge status. The big cost or investment for the Town would be the Highway Departments warrant article for replacing the 2005 Cat Grader. This currant grader is in need of over \$51,000 dollars of repairs, Paul had handouts on costs for the repairs. and over the last 5 years the town has spent \$49,884 dollars on repairs. The 2005 Grader Trade in value would be \$60,000 trade for a Milton Cat model 140A grader Price \$255K and a yearly lease \$29K for 10 years. Best value researched. Former Highway Agent Jeff Cantera in the audience had discussed that it could be in the Town's best internes to allow \$100,000 for the repairs of the 2005 Cat Grader for overhauling the engine and transmission. His explanation of the trade in allowance of the piece of equipment was light. It was a good presentation by Jeff, we were reminded the the Selectmen have final say on the wording and description of Warrant Articles brought to the voters.

Committee Member Doug Benton had further discussion of the School Departments apportion formula and agreements with the affected towns and Alexandria. Member Cindy Williams brought up discussion with Jennifer and others on researching municipal employees wages and benefits. Jennifer mentioned how this factor can reflect on "Job descriptions". This research and comparisons can be beneficial to the Town employees wages and the benefits provided compared to surrounding Towns.

Next meeting scheduled is Tuesday 26, October 2021 at the Old Town hall at 6:00pm. The department heads of the Police Department and Fire

Department will be present along with Emergency Management ,George Claymen.

A motion to adjourn was made by Don Paiva second by Mike Provost, all business completed yeas .

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mike Provost