

Town of Alburgh
Selectboard Budget Meeting
Municipal Conference Room
1/16/2023

Present: Josie Henry, Elliot Knight, Donna Boumil, and Russell Duchaine

Absent: Shawn Creller

Town Report and Budget Work

Josie Henry called the meeting to order at 5:12 PM.

The board considered 3 photo options for the cover of the town report presented by Town Clerk, Donna Bohannon. The option with a historical railroad photo was selected.

Ballot Items:

- 1) Board members continued discussion on the delinquent tax collector position.
 - Board members discussed the current compensation which averages just under \$30,000 annually in Alburgh.
 - Members reviewed the compensation and benefits report from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and discussed how \$12,500 is the average salary for salaried delinquent tax collectors amongst reporting towns.
 - Board members discussed transitioning the position to a salary and agreed that putting the question to voters was the appropriate way forward.
 - Board members agreed to revisit a specific salary amount in future budget meetings to propose to voters in the budget submission.
 - VLCT model ballot item language was reviewed

Russell Duchaine motioned; Elliott Knight seconded, a motion to include the following ballot item in the upcoming town meeting day vote:

Shall the Town compensate the Delinquent Tax Collector with a salary instead of any statutory fees allowed under 32 V.S.A. §1674?

- 2) Board members then discussed the auditors' recommendations from last year's town report that were: to either transition the town treasurer's position to an appointed one or get rid of the elected auditor positions and hire a professional accounting firm to audit town finances.
 - Board members agreed that a change to the auditor position would not be helpful given the recent contracted audit has been of little help as the list of recommendations resulting from the audit have gone not been implemented.
 - The board agreed putting the question of a change to an appointed, rather than elected treasurer was the preferred option.
 - Board members discussed increasing the Town Clerk salary to one comparable to average clerk salaries in Vermont and to ensure that position would still be appropriately compensated if the treasurer becomes an appointee outside of the town office employees.
 - VLCT model ballot item language was reviewed

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle James Choiniere

Zoom recording: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/rtLtH1gTDhCPMKMDfAd25zTGUr9-4FuQI6-6Lp4_5LaulDU-xYK9PmQ-KzSYmnqr.wLbyLYhv6i_fEMrJ?startTime=1673302351000

~~~ These are draft minutes not slated for approval until the next regular board meeting ~~~