

**MINUTES
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**

November 7, 2024, 3:00 PM

Alta Community Center, 10351 E. Highway 210, Alta, Utah

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Roger Bourke
Chris Cawley
Jen Clancy
Craig Heimark
Dan Schilling

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Morey, Town Marshal
Molly Austin, Assistant Town Administrator
Brooke Boone, Deputy Town Clerk
Mike Roach, Deputy Marshal

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Jen Clancy called the November 7, 2024 Budget Committee Meeting to order.

2. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT FY 2025 BUDGETS

The Budget Committee convened to review proposed amendments in preparation for the December town council budget amendment. The primary focus was on the Alta Marshals Office, with discussions centered on enrolling post-certified officers in the Utah Retirement Systems (URS) Public Safety Retirement System and the potential hiring of a fifth police officer.

Cawley outlined the committee's role in reviewing budget proposals before they are presented to the town council for final approval. Cawley noted that recent budget amendments had focused on stabilizing and sustaining the Alta Marshals Office. Key efforts included a wage study to ensure competitive pay, adjustments to overtime policies to comply with regulations, and analysis of the financial implications of enrolling officers in the URS Public Safety Retirement System.

Clancy presented financial comparisons between the current public employee retirement system and two public safety retirement fund options (Fund 43 and Fund 75). Committee members discussed the cost differences and benefits, including improved retirement terms for employees. Morey and Clancy recommended enrolling in Fund 75, citing its higher cost-of-living adjustment potential as beneficial for employees. The committee agreed to recommend Fund 75 to the town council.

The discussion then shifted to the proposal to hire a fifth police officer. Cawley and Morey detailed the need for increased staffing to reduce overtime burdens and enhance investigative capabilities. Morey emphasized the challenges of recruitment and retention, particularly given competition with agencies that offer stronger retirement benefits. The committee discussed the financial impact, with onboarding costs estimated at approximately \$60,000 and annual costs ranging from \$136,000 to \$140,000. The addition of a fifth officer was framed as a necessity due to increasing public safety demands.

Schilling and Heimark stressed that hiring a fifth officer aligned with council priorities set during the January 2024 retreat. They recommended presenting a clear staff recommendation to the town council, highlighting the urgency of action. The committee agreed to formally recommend both the URS enrollment and the hiring of a fifth officer.

Additional budgetary discussions included adjustments for building inspection fees and plan check expenses. Clancy noted that past budgeting had not fully accounted for external review costs, prompting an increase in the budgeted amount.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on funding the proposed changes. Clancy indicated that the town could address budget shortfalls by adjusting capital fund transfers or increasing revenue projections. Committee members acknowledged the need for further revenue discussions at the upcoming council retreat but agreed that the budget amendments could be supported with current resources.

3. **MISCELLANEOUS**

Clancy noted she had gotten behind in drafting minutes and so there would be multiple sets of minutes to adopt at the next meeting.

4. **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

MOTION: Dan Schilling motioned to adjourn, and Chris Cawley seconded.

VOTE: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned unanimously.

RESULT: APPROVED

Passed this 12th day of March, 2025


Jen Clancy, Town Clerk