

Town of Pembroke
Budget Committee Minutes

December 15, 2016

FINAL

Attendance: Clint Hanson, Pat Boucher, Tina Courtemanche, Gerry Fleury, Mark LePage, Brian Seaworth, Ann Bond, Mike Connor, Dave Doherty, Marie Chouinard, Karen Yeaton

Excused: Sandy Goulet, David Sheldon

Call to Order: 6:30pm

Minutes:

Approval of minutes of 8 December 2016 was tabled until 22 December 2016 meeting

School District Budget:

Superintendent Patty Sherman was present to discuss the proposed budget for the school district. Superintendent Sherman handed out the proposed budget with a one sheet overview describing the major changes. The overview is attached for review.

A Collective Bargaining Agreement has been reached in the regards to the Teachers Contract. The extent of the contract is described in the presented budget on page 64. Over the course of the three years the following increases to the salary lines will occur:

Year 1: \$313,983.00

Year 2: \$373,001.00

Year 3: \$380,694.00

This is a cumulative amount therefore over the span of the 3 year contract there will be an approximate 2.1 million dollar increase. There is a savings however in the insurance plan. The teachers have agreed to move to the Yellow Choice Plan which will save the town \$103,360. Questions to what the Yellow Choice Plan ensues. A copy of this will be emailed to Mark LePage for distribution to the committee.

The overview of the budget was then discussed. The questions by committee members are as follows:

1. Ann Bond asked with the cost of the Epi-Pen being \$750.00 a piece are the school required to have these?

Superintendent Sherman was unsure of the regulations in regards to the district providing these. She will believes it is a requirement however she will get clarification for the committee

2. Mark LePage questioned if the district had evaluated using Cloud based storage option for backup instead of a device on premises. This would allow the information to be stored off site as well.

Superintendent Sherman was unsure however she will discuss this with the technology department to find out

3. Gerry Fleury questioned if the increased cost on the bussing was due to additional buses

There are no additional busses in this quote. Due to the contract being up the bus company proposed an 8% increase per year for 3 years however this was negotiated down to 4.9% however a 5 year contract would need to be signed.

4. Karen Yeaton asked why there is a need for additional Front Desk Assistants at Pembroke Academy.

There are concerns in the summer in regards to additional coverage. Before the school year begins there is a lot of preparation work resulting in considerable activity within the building. In addition to this vacation coverage is needed as well. The additional days for the second assistant will allow for this to be done easier.

5. Gerry Fleury as what the job of the proposed new District Curriculum Director would be

Superintendent Sherman explained that currently there is inconsistency in the curriculum covered between all of the middle schools in the district. This results in gaps when students reach Pembroke Academy. This person would coordinate what should be covered throughout the district.

Karen Yeaton asked if there is benchmark testing to measure what progress was being made or how far behind some students are.

There is not any testing that will show this. This is based upon what the teachers are expressing at the high school. Superintendent Sherman stated that everything cannot be tested and this unfortunately is one of those things.

There is a Job Description that will be sent to Mark LePage for distribution. This will allow members of the board to better understand what the role of this new position is.

Ann Bond requested to know what the total cost throughout the district would be for this position.

With doing some research the district budgeted \$140,000 which would cover maximum salary and insurance.

6. Karen Yeaton asked what the cause of the increased guidance position was needed.

There is an increased amount of needs in the Village School. There are increased family issues, increase in homeless population, and a large increase in family-related work not just for the individual student.

7. Karen Yeaton was curious if there was a spreadsheet showing decreases in the budget

There is not a spreadsheet for this. The way to do this at this point is going line by line.

8. Ann Bond inquired to why increased Internet band width was needed

Everything is done electronically now. It was unclear whether some of this could be used for student's personal devices. Superintendent Sherman will check with the technology department to see why the increase is needed.

Next week the School Budget will be discussed again in more depth.

Motion to adjourn made by Clint Hanson. Motion seconded by Marie Chouinard. Motion passed at 749pm