

Town of Pembroke
Budget Committee Minutes

January 5, 2016

FINAL

1. Attendance:

Clint Hanson, Pat Boucher, Tina Courtemanche, Gerry Fleury, Mark LePage, Brian Seaworth, Ann Bond, Mike Connor, Dave Doherty, Karen Yeaton, David Sheldon

Unexcused: Sandy Goulet, Marie Chouinard

2. Call to Order: 6:30pm

3. Minutes:

Action: Tina Courtemanche moved to approve the minutes of 12/22/16. Gerry Fleury seconded the motion.

Discussion: Please change Karen Goulet throughout the document to Karen Yeaton. Also add the wording "onsite" to the backup system verbiage.

4. School District Budget Questions:

A new copy of the School District budget was handed out for review.

Pat Boucher stated that she attempted to reach the other School Board members to schedule a meeting sooner, however other members could not meet. She wanted the members of the Budget committee to know that an attempt was made. Mark LePage wanted it on record that at the wrap up meeting last budget season it was requested that the School be able to meet more often during this time due to time sensitive items.

Karen noted that there is a \$400,000 difference between the original budget submitted and the one presented today. A reasoning for the increase of was requested. Amber Wheeler-Business Administrator for the School District explained the difference. In the original budget the increase for the new teachers contracted was not included. In addition the funding for the one teacher that is going on sabbatical was included and an adjustment to the communications line was made. At the previous meeting it was discovered that the number included two contracts for internet service and this was adjusted to the new proposed amount.

Ann Bond spoke of the proposed new insurance policy for the teacher contract. As presented there would be a deductible of \$2000 for the individual and \$4000 for the family. With that said the insurance company will reimburse up to \$1000. Ann wanted to know what would be done with the remaining reimbursement money if not used. Pat Sherman stated that we would lose it. Ann explained while negotiating sometimes the excess money could be returned to the district.

Tina Courtemanche noted a change within the grant amounts on page 32B of the School Budget packet and was curious to what caused this. There was a decreased amount in \$42,380 that was due to a reduction in the Title I Grant. This is a state generated amount based upon the amount of students that need services.

Ann Bond noted that enrollment has decreased and requested to know if there would be a reduction in staffing as well. Prior to the answer given it was noted that there was a decrease of 40 students in the past two years in the elementary school alone. Pat Sherman explained that there was no proposed reduction in staff planned. Pat Boucher stated that the more reasonable the class size the better education the students will get. After further discussion and comparison of class size numbers it was requested that the Pat Sherman go to the principals to discuss the proposed reduction in staffing to match the decrease in students.

Karen Yeaton expressed her concerns with the percentage of increase proposed. As she stated there is a tolerance for about a 4% increase however not the 10% proposed. Her concern lies with the amount we push back on the Town vs the School District. We need to prioritize what is the most important and push back where needed.

Clint Hanson wanted to remind everyone on the budget committee that a bottom line cut is not authorized in the MS7 and MS27. Individual lines need to be determined to where to cut from instead. These cuts would then be presented at the School District Meeting and the tax payers would then have the option to either accept it or adjust to what they like.

Ann Bond questioned what the \$5500 increase in the Greenhouse budget was due to. Amber stated that there was a miscommunication last year at budget time. This money is distinctly for supplies for the horticulture class. None of this money goes to materials for the sales in the greenhouse. All funding for that goes through the Student Activities fund.

Tina Courtemanche expressed her concerns to the Budget Committee. The school has stated multiple times that the increase is due to the down shifting of the costs from the state. This is true for the Town as well making it difficult for them as well.

Clint Hanson recommended closing the schools and all of the parents will show up at the meeting and then the school will get what they want.

If the CBA is not passed then the insurance will stay the same as well. This would cut the decrease in insurance. Clint Hanson stated he will abstain from voting in the teacher contract due to the verbiage and not agreeing with it.

All Budget Committee members are urged to the time on 1/12/17 where there would have been a meeting and review the budgets. Look at the line items specifically that could be cut and come back with suggestions. The next meeting will be held 1/19/17. The Public Hearing on the Budget will be held 2/9/17.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03pm was made by Gerry Fleury. Motion seconded by Clint Hanson. Motion passed.