

Budget Committee
January 25, 2018
Final

Roll Call:

Ann Bond
Clint Hanson-School Board Alternate Representative
David Doherty-School Board Representative
Mark LePage-Chairperson
Brian Seaworth
Marie Chouinard
Mike Connor
Peter Gagy
Tina Courtemanche-Selectman Representative
Karen Yeaton
Gerry Fleury-Vice Chairperson
David Sheldon=Selectman Alternative Representative

Call to Order: 6:30pm

Minutes:

Tabled until next meeting

Other:

School Board made some changes and switched representatives. Clint Hanson is now the School Board Representative and David Doherty is now the alternate.

Continued Discussion on School Budget:

Amber Wheeler was present to discuss the current revenues and how the numbers were arrived at. Ms. Wheeler stated that the estimated revenue was based on using the actual roster as the starting point. Using a 90% of that number as the attendance rate, the estimation is approximately \$5.3 million.

Karen Yeaton requested to know how the SAU chooses the revenue estimates, as the concern is that in years past, the percentage used was not conservative enough. Ms Wheeler stated that last year, the percentage used was between 91-92%, so this is a bit more conservative.

The proposed tuition rate for next school year is estimated at \$12,726.00, however there are multiple variables that contribute to this.

Ann Bond requested to know how things would be different, as we used 91% last year and had an approximate \$737,000 shortfall. Amber Wheeler stated that the difference was that last year, there was a different tuition rate. Ms. Wheeler went on to state that the State of NH will be issuing money to all towns with Full Day Kindergarten. This is guaranteed money for this upcoming year, however it is unsure if this will be repeated in years to come.

Brian Seaworth requested to know when the SAU recalculates tuition and how often the amount changes. Ms. Wheeler stated that there is a onetime adjustment made, however it is in the next fiscal year.

Gerry Fleury requested to know if the School Board can encumber money. Per Patty Sherman, this can happen if the School Board requests it. Amber Wheeler went on to state that there are certain parameters that have to be followed in order to do this, though.

Warrant Article #2 requests to withdraw the amount of \$42,548 from the School Building and Ground Repair Capital Reserve. Marie Chouinard requests to know why this amount, if only \$24,000 is required for the grant match. Ms. Wheeler explained the additional \$18,000 would go to repair the other items not covered by the grant without costing the tax payers additional funds.

A motion to approve Article #2 was made by Gerry Fleury, however it was tabled awaiting the correct verbiage of the article.

Karen Yeaton requested to know when the final numbers from the School Board will be obtained. Clint Hanson stated that the School Board does not have any plans to change the numbers.

David Sheldon stated he looked at the line items and took into account the decrease in enrollment. In doing so, he looked at the line items, and his opinions are follows:

- Administration Line: Removing the Principal Position at the Village School, as the Principal at the Hill School used to cover both. Remove an Assistant Principal at Pembroke Academy, and look at reducing the secretarial positions.
- Teachers: The current proposal estimates a reduction by 6 teachers, however looking at the numbers, 12 may be more in line with the declining numbers.

Karen Yeaton stated that she agreed with the above statement, as her numbers were in line with that as well.

Clint Hanson stated that the Board should be cautious, as a double counting of numbers may be done. Tina Courtemanche then rebutted with we can only go by the numbers we're are given.

Gerry Fleury stated he has never been so uncertain, and something doesn't make sense.

Clint Hanson stated that approximately 70% of the budget is non-discretionary, therefore there really is only about 30% of the budget to work with. He cautioned the committee as further cuts will have real impact.

Mark LePage ended the meeting by stating a review of the warrant articles will be done at the next meeting. This meeting will be 2/1/18 at the Pembroke Academy Library.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Clint Hanson at 8:18pm. Motion seconded by Marie Chouinard. Motion passed.