

Budget Committee
February 1, 2018
Final

Roll Call:

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

Call to Order: 6:30pm

Minutes:

Tina Courtemanche moved to approve the minutes from 1/18/18 as written. Motion seconded by Mike Connor. Motion passed 9-0.

School Budget Continued:

Mark LePage stated that several petition articles were submitted to the school, which need to be reviewed. The cut off for petition articles is 2/6/18. In order to do this, the Budget Committee will start at 6:30pm on Thursday 2/8/18 to vote on the articles, then recess until 7pm when the Public Hearing will begin.

Gerry Fleury moved to approve Article 2 of the School Board Warrant Articles as presented. Motion seconded by Mike Conner.

Discussion: Marie Chouinard stated she was under the impression the wording of the article would change. Gerry Fleury stated the Department of Revenue Administration may not like the article broken up the way it was requested. However the detail is there that is needed.

Vote:

Ann Bond-Yes
Clint Hanson-Yes
Brian Seaworth-Yes
Marie Chouinard-Yes
Mike Connor-Yes

Peter Gagyí-Yes
Tina Courtemanche-Yes
Karen Yeaton-Yes
Gerry Fleury-Yes

Motion Passed 9-0

Article 4:

Gerry Fleury stated he would like to revisit the total budget amount after the Public Hearing. He went on to state that over the past week, he was able to review what caused the 17% increase in his own property tax bill. 6.3% was a result of the town voting in this increase last year with the bottom line and warrant articles. The rest is due to both the shortfall of the school and the revaluation. The basis of the revaluation was residential and did not affect the commercial properties. Mr. Fleury went on to state he wanted to hear from the tax payers, as how he is looking at it, there is no simple fix.

Mark LePage stated he did the breakdown for his own property as well. 31% was the increase voted in last year. 33% is the revaluation and 36% was due to the shortfall. There are multiple components to the increase.

Karen Yeaton agrees that the increase was around 12% due to revaluation. However this does not take into account the 19% increase from 2016 until now. Ms. Yeaton feels that this is the perfect opportunity to reevaluate spending at the schools. She feels as though this may not be taken seriously and some of the line items published for reductions are more instigating versus strategic.

Clint Hanson stated the Superintendent and the Administrators met and compiled a list of where further reductions can be made. In addition to the reductions, approximately \$500,000 in surplus funds are estimated to be returned to reduce taxes. Mr. Hanson went on to state that the board is at the point that if they cut any further, there will be some pain. Right now the Town of Pembroke is operating at about 90% of the state average, approximately \$2000 less per student.

Mr. Hanson explained that the School Board took into consideration that the principal at the Village School was retiring. They have made the decision to replace the position with an Assistant Principal in preparation that the two school may merge in the future. The School Board is not in favor of any additional cuts and will not be doing so at this point.

Gerry Fleury wanted to know if the School District funded the Resource Officer. Tina Courtemanche stated the Resource Officer is on the Town Payroll, however the school reimburses for the hours worked in the school.

Karen Yeaton stated she is opposed to some of the proposed cuts on page one and two of the new packet handed out. Ms. Yeaton requested to know if her spreadsheet of proposed line items to review was looked at, as what is proposed tonight seems instigating. Patty Sherman stated she did review the spreadsheet and sent responses back to why each of the lines could not be reduced. She doesn't feel this is instigating. just that there is nowhere else to pull from.

Karen Yeaton brought forth what she felt were discrepancies in reductions. It has been stated certain lines were reduced, however when looking at the latest budget, it doesn't seem to match. Patty

Sherman explained the reductions stated were from the original requests from the teachers/administrators, not from the budget presented to the committee.

Mike Conner moved to recommend article 4 as presented in the amount of \$25,319,207.00 in light of seeing what happens at the public hearing. Motion seconded by Gerry Fleury.

Ann Bond- No

Clint Hanson-Yes

Brian Seaworth-No

Marie Chouinard-No

Mike Connor-Yes

Peter Gagyí-No

Tina Courtemanche-No

Karen Yeaton-No

Gerry Fleury-Yes

Motion failed 3-6

Brian Seaworth moved to recommend the amount of the School Budget in the amount of \$24,549,355.00. Reductions in the following lines:

1100 lines \$614,680.00, 1400 lines \$100,658.00 and 2700 lines \$54,514.00 with a total of \$769,852.00

Motion seconded by Karen Yeaton

Discussion: This is purely for the Public Hearing as our recommendation.

Ann Bond- Yes

Clint Hanson-No

Brian Seaworth-Yes

Marie Chouinard-Yes

Mike Connor-No

Peter Gagyí-Yes

Tina Courtemanche-Yes

Karen Yeaton-Yes

Gerry Fleury-No

Motion passed 6-3

Requests for next week's Public Hearing:

Summary of Key Points, Warrants, MS Forms and Petition Warrant Articles.

Motion made by Gerry Fleury to adjourn. Motion seconded by Clint Hanson. Motion passed 10-0