

Town of Pembroke
Budget Committee Minutes
February 8, 2018-Public Hearing

1. Attendance:

Budget Committee-Clint Hanson, Peter Gagyi, Tina Courtemanche, Gerry Fleury, Mark LePage, Brian Seaworth, Ann Bond, Mike Connor, Dave Doherty, Karen Yeaton, Marie Chouinard

Other-David Jodoin Town Administrator, Amber Wheeler SAU 53 Business Administrator, Patty Sherman SAU 53 Superintendent, Dan Driscoll School Board Chairman, Tom Serafin School Board Member

Excused: David Sheldon

Call to Order: 7:00pm

Mark LePage presented an overview to all in attendance-

It is the responsibility of the Budget Committee to look at both the Town and School Budget and see what the impact on the town. Over the course of the past few months many drafts have been presented to the board. Tonight the most recent draft is being presented. The Committee will listen to the comments and discussions presented, evaluate if there are areas that need to be changed and then vote on what will be presented at the Town/School Meetings in March.

An overview of key points of the Proposed Town Budget are as follows:

- The assessed value of the town is changed this past year due to revaluation
- Increase per thousand for Town's proposed portion of the operating budget is \$.03
- Recommendation to close TIF Fund and run through operating budget per DRA.
Recommendation (Proposed to residents through a warrant articles
- Request for reconstruction and repaving of three roads by the issuance of a bond

An overview of key points of the Proposed School District Budget are as follows:

- Shortfall last year was due to multiple components; Tuition, State Adequacy Aid Reduction, Medicaid Funding Reduction.
- Special Education Expenses can't be controlled through the Budget Process as they are mandated by the State.

Public Hearing

Open Public Hearing at 750pm

David Jodoin presented the Town budget on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Jodoin explained the number of man hour cuts that the Town office has seen since he started in 2008 which totaled 90 hours. He asked the audience to look at the sheet that showed last years budgeted amounts as well as this years. He went through the list highlighting the larger areas where cuts or increases were made.

He then asked everyone to look at the proposed warrant articles. The first article to discuss was for the reconstruction of three roads in town for a sum not to exceed \$1.2 million dollars that was recommended by both the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. The current plan here is to payoff the Pembroke Hill Bond this year and then use those funds to pay for this project which will not impact the taxpayers.

The next proposed article was for KENO.

The remaining articles were to put money in Capital Reserve Funds and then to withdraw some for Highway and Police purchases.

Town Budget Question and Answers

1. Diane Schuett -Pembroke Street

How many taxable properties for both Commercial and Residential?

David Jodoin stated there were approximately 3000 parcels in Town. He did not know the exact number but approximately 90% residential and 10% commercial.

2. Ray Olivia-North Pembroke Rd.

Why such an increase for fair market value?

David Jodoin stated that DRA reviews our assessment ratios every year and we are required to be 90-110 % of market. When we drop too low, the State steps in and requires us to do updates.

3. John Scarola-Melissa Drive

Does an assessor have to go into the house to be completed?

The assessor tries to get in every house, they will leave a card if no one is home and request an interior inspection. All houses are re-measured on a quarterly cycle. We do roughly 25% of the houses each year.

4. Connie Soucy-Buck St

Why so many reassessments? Just had one and now being requested again

David Jodoin stated that this is due to the revaluation in 2019 and your neighborhood must be the remaining 25% of the Town to do before the reval.

5. Ray Olivia-Pembroke St

Revaluation in the end is controlled by demand. Are we holding the correct people accountable?

David Jodoin – This is market driven and people are over paying for homes. We are seeing house's sell for far more than we have them assessed at. I have had conversations with people saying they paid more than we have them assessed at.

There being no more questions on the Town, Clint Hanson presented the School budget.

School District Questions and Answers:

1. Glen Boudreaux-Broadway

Against cutting the additional money from the budget.

Concerns that Co-Curriculars are being cut, Robotics wouldn't run as it would be cut to a ½ year not allowing for some of the competitions. There would be elimination of some sports. Why are the students getting affected-ITS NOT OUR FAULT

2. April Valini-Pembroke Hill Road

There is a 17.3 increase for the school budget is unacceptable even after the budget committee cut more it still entails an increase greater then 10%. The School Board decides how to spend the funds. Quality education does not always mean increase expense. In addition concern was expressed that audit results have still not been presented and that who was awarded the project as well.

3. Peter Mehegan-Pembroke Street

States he has taught at Pembroke Academy for 30 years and feels cutting the money does not solve the problem. If you cut the assistant coaches in extracurricular this will put the staff in danger of potential allegations.

4. Daniel Israel-Non Resident wanted to speak

Leandra Platt-Resident would like student to speak on her behalf

Mr Israel stated the importance of extracurricular sports and keeping children out of town involved and out of trouble. He wanted to make the board aware that he is against these programs being cut.

5. Melanie Camello-Tina Dr.

Feels like the town is divided and everyone has different positions at this point

6. Natalie Peterson-Belfry Ct.

There were a lot of questions asked of the School Board and feels like there are still no answers. However feels like looking at the numbers of teachers and aids doesn't explain what is happening in the classroom.

7. Donna Blum-Bow Lane

Does not agree with the proposed cuts as the students need co-curricular sports and the school needs the resource officer.

Dan Driscoll-School Board Member wanted to clarify that the School Board was the ones that came up with the additional cuts. The Budget Committee did not develop this list.

8. Kim Phillips-North Pembroke Rd

Expressed concern with the amount of administration the school has. Compared to surrounding schools such as Concord and Bow we have an increased amount.

9. John Sccarola-Melissa Dr

Expressed concern with the Town Library

10. Clyde Fitz-Dudley Hill Rd

Concerns on how we estimate special education; would like a better estimate made however understands it's a moving target.

11. Kathy Cruson-Pembroke Hill Rd

Expressed NH is a unique state in the way Special Education is reimbursed vs other states. However cuts are going to hurt the children and the staff.

12. Dan Morris-East Meadow Lane

Expressed his concern with the cuts and how it will impact the community

13. Kevin Foss-Buck St

Feels like some people on the Budget Committee has an agenda
Urges the board to reconsider the cuts

14. Andy Cammage-Brickett Hill Rd.

Feels like the cuts proposed may be a scare tactic; feels like the school could look elsewhere.

15. Rick Frost-Academy Rd

Feels revenue will drop if cuts are made
Gets a veteran discount on taxes each year and is willing to give back to save co- curricular activities.

Public Hearing Closed at 9:39pm

Thank you for all that attended the meeting.