

Budget Committee
January 6th, 2016
7:00PM
Town Office/Police Station Conference Room
Approved: January 20th, 2016

Budget Committee Members: Judy Brotman, Susan J. MacKenzie, Robin Taylor, Wilkes McClave, Phil Barta, Eric Colberg, Greg Lange, Richard Jones and Elizabeth Glenshaw. School Superintendent Mike Harris and Principal Jeff Valance. Community members: James Graham and Sarah Glass.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Brotman.

1. There were no general public comments at this time.
2. Ms. Glenshaw moved to approve the draft minutes of the December 16th, 2015 meeting, Seconded by Mr. McClave. The minutes were voted 7 in favor with 1 abstention (Jones was not present for the meeting).
3. The committee reviewed the proposed school budget with changes from the last presentation. Several options for reducing the budget to a 6.9% increase were detailed. The following topics were reviewed and discussed:
 - High school tuition increase
 - Special education increases
 - Health insurance changes
 - Teachers and Staff increases
 - Housing and rentals bringing families with children to the school
 - Class size and State recommendations for class sizes
 - Splitting classes and at what numbers this is considered by the administration
 - 9.9% increase not being sustainable for tax payers
 - If the cuts proposed are in line with the strategic plan that was put in place for the School
 - Middle school make up and how classes work and run
 - Concern about cutting programs
 - Planning for split classes and if not necessary putting the funding towards another program cut
 - Programs to be considered by administration to fund if the funding was available
 - Homestead tax was discussed
 - Endowment fund to offset tax increases
 - Concerns of taxes escalating very quickly were noted
 - Teacher negotiations and information sharing among area towns on this topic
4. After all committee members had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the above items Chair Brotman opened the public comment section of the meeting.
5. General discussion of cost per student, budget procedure, grants, class size impact and high school tuition charges.
6. Chair Brotman asked for volunteers to serve on the newly forming committee to address equity in taxes and to discuss ideas to look at way to ease the tax burden for community members. Jeff Valance, Wilkes McClaves and Elisabeth Glenshaw all offered to be involved with this committee. The board will come up with a charge and MaKenzie will schedule the first meeting.

Budget Committee
January 6th, 2016
7:00PM
Town Office/Police Station Conference Room
Approved: January 20th, 2016

7. At this time Mr. Jones moved to approve the school budget with the 6.9% increase. Seconded by Mr. McClave. The committee discussed the option of only cutting some items and what the total budget figure would be. Eliminating a proposed teacher and budgeted retiree benefits were 2 items currently cut in the proposed 6.9% budget. Glenshaw noted the enrollment stabilization money not used will be repurposed to cover retiree benefits and the administration would hope to not need the 2nd proposed teacher. The committee continued to discuss what this final figure would be if various scenarios were added and or taken from the budget sheet proposed by the school board. After further discussion the motion was called.

- Motion on the 6.9% 2016-2017 school budget was voted in the following:
4 - against (Taylor, Barta, Glenshaw & Colberg)
5- in favor (Jones, MacKenzie, McClave, Lange & Brotman)
The motion passed in a preliminary vote on the 2016-2017 school budget in the estimated amount of \$6,462,796.00.

8. There being no further business before the committee, Mr. Jones moved to adjourn. Mrs. Glenshaw seconded the motion. Voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Dina Cutting

Next Meeting: January 20th, 2016 Public Hearing