

Budget Committee
February 15th 2018
7:00PM
Town Office/Police Station Conference Room
PUBLIC HEARING
Approved: October 3rd 2018

Budget Committee Members: Judy Brotman, Susan J. MacKenzie, Eric Furstenberg, Richard Jones, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Scott May, Cybele Merrick and Wilkes McClave. Select Board members Jay Smith & Bradford Keith. Administrative Assistant Dina Cutting. School Superintendent/Principal Jeff Valence. Community members: David & Barbara Roby, Chris Ramsden, Jennifer Boylston, Alicia Willette, Kevin & Darla Sahr.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chair Brotman.

1. Ms. Glenshaw moved to approve the minutes of January 24th, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Jones. Voted unanimously in favor.
2. Chair Brotman offered this time for public comment, there was none.
3. The Public Hearing on the “money” warrant articles for the School was opened at 7:04PM.

Ms. Brotman opened the floor to public comments. There being none at this time the hearing moved on to discuss the school warrant articles. Mr. Valence reviewed the articles and answered questions related to these money items.

The following School Warrant Articles were voted as listed below:

- **Article 1 Roof repair**—Mr. McClave moved to approve Article 1 in the amount of \$180,000. Seconded by Mr. May. The budget committee discussed this repair. There were no public comments. Motion voted unanimously in favor. 7-0
This article is recommended by the Budget Committee.
- **Article 3 Operating Budget in the amount of \$6,979,882 - was previously voted to recommend.**
- **Article 4 Transfer from Surplus to School Enrollment Response Fund**—Ms. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 4 in the amount up to \$45,000. Seconded by Mr. McClave. A brief discussion took place concerning the possible transfers of funds for article 4, 5 & 6 depending on the surplus amount from the operating budget.
Public comment was to see if the School would consider allotting a % for each fund. It was noted that the Department of Revenue Administration would not support that kind of warrant article.
Motion voted unanimously in favor. 7-0
This article is recommended by the Budget Committee.
- **Article 5 Transfer of Surplus to High School Tuition Expendable Trust Fund**- Mr. May moved to approve Article 5 in an amount up to \$50,000.

Seconded by Mr. Jones. There were no public comments. Motion voted unanimously in favor. 7-0

This article is recommended by the Budget Committee.

- **Article 6 Transfer of Surplus to Special Education Capital Reserve Fund-**

Mr. Jones moved to approve Article 6 in an amount up to \$25,000. Seconded by Mr. McClave. There were no public comments. Motion voted unanimously in favor. 7-0.

This article is recommended by the Budget Committee.

- **Article 7 to establish the salaries of school district officers** (these salaries are included in the operational budget) – Ms. Glenshaw moved to approved Article 7. Ms. Merrick seconded the motion. Motion voted 6 in favor, 1 abstention.

This article is recommended by the Budget Committee.

- **Article 8 to establish a full day kindergarten and secure additional state funding** (by petition) - Mr. May moved to approve Article 8 in the amount of \$56,749. Seconded by Mr. Furstenberg. The Budget Committee reviewed this petitioned article with Mr. Valence and the petitioners, Jennifer Boylston & Alicia Willette. (Article 8, 9 and 10 are cascading articles.) The Budget Committee discussed and considered the following information:

- The kindergarten program would qualify for a portion of state funding, as it is based on hours of operation.
- Keno gaming and what this may mean in relation to funding for kindergarten. There are lots of uncertainties with this funding program.
- A not-for-profit after-kindergarten program is presently being operated. Jennifer Boylston & Alicia Willette reviewed what this non-profit does and how it funds its program with tuitions, grants and donations.
- This is a large amount of money for a relatively small number of students (presently 22 students). \$56,000 could do a lot if it was used in a program that was aimed at a larger group of students.
- The pros and cons of all-day kindergarten were discussed.
- Lyme is the only town in the Upper Valley with less than a full day program.
- The School Board made the difficult choice to not fund this program at this time.
- Concerns were expressed that not everyone will be able to afford the after-school program and will need to ask for funding help.
- Mr. Valence reviewed the After-Kindergarten Capital Reserve Fund and how the Fund would work for those seeking assistance.

At this time Mr. Jones called the motion. Ms. Brotman polled the budget committee members at this time. It was the sense of the majority of the budget committee that the present kindergarten program meets the state's qualification of a full-day program, therefore it was not the year to add additional tax burdens to the budget by establishing a full-day kindergarten program.

Motion voted as follows: 1 in favor (Merrick); 6 opposed.

This article will not be recommended by the Budget Committee.

- **Article 9 To Establish an After Kindergarten Capital Reserve Fund - Ms.** Glenshaw moved to approve Article 9 in the amount of \$15,000. Seconded by Mr.

May. There were no public comments. Followed was a discussion on funding an after-kindergarten program. The pros and cons of children attending an after-kindergarten program were briefly discussed. At this time Mr. Jones called the motion. The motion was voted as follows: 1 in favor (Glenshaw); 5 opposed; 1 abstention (MacKenzie). This article will not be recommended by the Budget Committee.

- **Article 10 To Establish an After Kindergarten program** - Ms. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 10 in the amount of \$56,749. Seconded by Mr. May. There were no public comments. The motion was voted as follows: 1 in favor (Glenshaw); 6 opposed.

This article will not be recommended by the Budget Committee.

4. At 8:15PM Chair Brotman closed the Public Hearing on the School Warrant Articles involving money.
5. At 8:15 PM Chair Brotman opened the Public Hearing on the Town Warrant Articles involving money.

Ms. Brotman opened the floor to public comments. There being none at this time the hearing moved on to discuss the town warrant articles.

The following Town Warrant Articles were voted as listed below:

- **Article 6 Operating Budget in the amount of \$2,248,027 – was previously voted to recommend.**
- **Article 7 - Block Grant** - Mr. May moved to approve Article 7 in the amount of \$90,000. Seconded by Ms. Glenshaw. Motion voted 7-0 unanimously in favor. This article is recommended by the Budget Committee.
- **Article 8 - To Capital Reserve Funds and Trust Funds** – Ms. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 8 in the amount of \$469,500. Seconded by Mr. McClave. Mr. Jones moved to amend the total by cutting \$50,000 from the Public Works Capital Reserve Fund. Mr. May seconded the motion. Mr. Jones noted needing to find some savings in the proposed budget requests. There is no active plan for a Town building at this time, so he felt this would not impact the 2018 funding initiatives. Mr. Smith reviewed the Capital Reserve Funds and Trust Funds and the Select Board's goals and plans. Mr. Keith noted the Select Board has proposed these amounts to fund the Capital Reserve Funds and Trust Funds in order to adequately allow the appropriations from these funds on the previously approved schedule. After a brief discussion the motion to reduce the total amount to \$419,500 was voted 3 in favor (Jones, Furstenberg, McClave); and 4 against (MacKenzie, Glenshaw, May and Merrick). The original motion in the amount of \$469,500 was voted 6 in favor and 1 against (Jones). This article is recommended by the Budget Committee.
- **Article 10 - Withdrawal from Capital Reserve Fund** - Ms. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 10 in the amount of \$181,500. Seconded by Ms. Merrick. After a brief discussion on the proposed purchase of a loader, the motion was voted unanimously in favor 7-0. This article is recommended by the Budget Committee.

- **Article 11 – Lease-to-Own Agreement for a 2015 Bomag Roller** - Mr. May moved to approve Article 11 in the amount of \$18,081. Seconded by Ms. Glenshaw. This is the final year in the 5-year lease/purchase agreement. Motion voted unanimously in favor 7-0.
This article is recommended by the Budget Committee.
- **Article 12 – Appropriate Funds for Road Repair at River Road/Grant Brook South Location** - Ms. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 12 in the amount of \$248,539. Seconded by Ms. MacKenzie. This project should have been completed last year. The July storm made this area much more unstable. There is concern that this section of road may not last until the 2019 budget season. A discussion ensued, with comments from the budget committee and then the public. Mr. Roby encouraged the budget committee to not approve this warrant article in order to allow further investigation of how to both repair and fund the project. It was noted that the River Road has historically been, and is going to continue to be a problem for years to come. The motion was approved unanimously by a vote of 7-0.
This article is recommended by the Budget Committee.
- **Article 13 – Appropriate Funds for Road Repair Due to July 1st Storm Baker Hill Road #1 Location** - Mr. McClave moved to approve Article 13 in the amount of \$200,000. Seconded by Ms. MacKenzie. Ms. MacKenzie reviewed the problems with this section of Baker Hill Road. If the road does not get repaired there is a possibility that it will need to be closed for safety reasons. It was noted by Jones and Furstenberg that there are no formal plans or cost estimates at this time and they both had concerns about asking to Town for these funds. The motion was voted 5 in favor, 2 against (Jones & Furstenberg).
This article is recommended by the Budget Committee.
- **Article 14 - Culvert Inventory Project** - Mr. May moved to approve Article 14 in the amount of \$21,000. Seconded by Mr. Furstenberg. Ms. MacKenzie reviewed the project. A grant for \$10,500 has been secured from NH DOT. The motion was approved unanimously by a vote of 7-0.
This article is recommended by the Budget Committee.
- **Article 15 – Independence Day Celebration Special Revenue Fund** - Mr. Jones moved to approve Article 15 in the amount of \$7,584. Seconded by Ms. Glenshaw. The motion was voted unanimously in favor 7-0.
This article is recommended by the Budget Committee.
- **Article 16 - Milfoil Treatment for Post Pond** - Ms. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 16 in the amount of \$26,785. Seconded by Mr. McClave. The work to treat the milfoil in Post Pond s is funded in part with a grant from the State of NH (up to \$6,696), with \$13,866 to be withdrawn from the unassigned fund balance (a carryover) and \$6,223 to be contributed by the conservation commission. After an update on the past year's treatment and the need to continue to attempt to control the milfoil, the motion was voted unanimously in favor 7-0.
This article is recommended by the Budget Committee.

At 9:20 PM chair Brotman closed the Public Hearing on the Town Warrant Articles involving money.

The Budget Committee signed the MS-27 for the School.
The Budget Committee signed the MS-737 for the Town.

Upcoming meeting reminders:

- Little Town Meeting is Tuesday, March 6th at 7:00 PM
- School District Meeting is Thursday, March 8th at 6:00 PM
- Town Meeting is Tuesday, March 13th at 9:00 AM.

At 9:25 PM Ms. Glenshaw moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Merrick. Voted unanimously in favor.

Sincerely,

Dina Cutting