

Budget Committee
January 20th, 2016
7:00PM
Town Office/Police Station Conference Room
Approved: February 3rd, 2016

Budget Committee Members: Judy Brotman, Susan J. MacKenzie, Robin Taylor, Brian Cook, Phil Barta, Erik Colberg, Greg Lange, Richard Jones, Charles Ragan, Elizabeth Glenshaw and Wilkes McClave (by telephone). Select Board members: Jay Smith & Patty Jenks. School Superintendent Mike Harris and Principal Jeff Valance. Community members: David & Barbara Roby & Blake Alison

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

1. There were no general public comments at this time.
2. Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes of the January 6th, 2016, Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. There followed a discussion concerning how detailed the minutes to the Budget Committee meeting have been and should be. Mrs. Glenshaw wanted to make it clear the reason the board members who vote against the 6.9% increase was because they felt some of the other items previously taken out of the proposed budget should be put back in. The minutes were voted 9 in favor with 1 abstention (Cook was not present for the meeting).
3. The School budget Public Hearing was opened at 7:09PM:
 - The School presented a revised memo (see attachment) this is a 7.75% increase.
 - Mrs. Glenshaw reviewed the changes and the reasons why the School Board came back with a 7.75% instead of the 6.9% previously voted.

The following topics were reviewed-

- High school tuition increases
 - Special education increases
 - Health insurance changes
 - Teachers and Staff increases
 - Splitting classes
 - Concern about cutting programs
 - K-8 costs per pupil
 - Funding models to try and support the school and ease the financial increases.
 - Using Capital Reserve fund by the year 2022. Concerns were noted that these funds need to be built back up.
 - Concerns of tax increases were noted
 - Some Budget Committee members were disappointed that the board came back with a larger increase than the agreed upon 6.9%
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. The following comments were made:
 - The School Board and administration had done a good job,
 - Fear that in the Budget Committees drive to hold down the taxes they will be cutting too much from the school budget,
 - Consider fund raising to help replenish the Capital Reserve and Trust Fund for the school.
 5. Mr. Jones moved to approve the school budget for 2016-2017 at \$6,465,848.00 - a 7.75% increase. Mr. Ragan seconded the motion. After a brief discussion the motion was voted 8 in

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favor (Jones, Barta, Taylor, Glenshaw, Lange, Colberg & Regan. 2 against (MacKenzie and McClave). The school budget was passed in the amount of \$6,465,848.00.

6. The School portion of the public hearing was closed at 7:40PM
7. The Town budget Public Hearing was opened at 7:40PM
 - Some members of the budget committee expressed concern that the warrant articles were not provided prior to the budget vote and therefore they were not able to get the full picture of the budget.
 - Concerns over the potential costs of the River Road fix were noted. The board could not give any definitive answers as they are waiting for further information from the engineers.
8. Mr. Jones moved to approve the Town operating budget at \$2,159,601.00. Seconded by Mr. Ragan. Voted unanimously in favor.
9. At 7:53PM there being no further business Mr. Jones move to adjourn. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Dina Cutting

Next Meeting: February 3rd, 2016 - Public Hearing to consider warrant articles having to do with money.