

Budget Committee
December 14th, 2016
7:00PM
Town Office/Police Station Conference Room

Attendance: Charles Ragan, Cybele Merrick, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Eric Furstenberg, Erik Colberg, Greg Lange, Judith Brotman, Phil Barta, Richard Jones, Susan MacKenzie, Wilkes MClave

Others: Jeff Valence, Mike Harris, Kevin Sahr, David and Barbara Roby

Chair Brotman opened the meeting at 7:03 pm.

There were no public comments at this time.

The minutes of November 18, 2016 were approved as corrected.

Superintendent Harris introduced the proposed FY 2018 school budget, and distributed an explanatory memo. (Memo is attached to these minutes.)

The draft budget is an 8.1% increase over this year's budget, and does not yet include any salary increases, and includes 3 additional staff - a curriculum director, an additional part-time custodian and an additional special education teacher.

Mr. Harris announced that he will be retiring at the end of the school year. With the upcoming superintendent vacancy, the school board is proposing an alternative staffing arrangement. Ms. Glenshaw introduced and explained the school board's proposal for top level management for next year: a Business Manager, a Principal, a Curriculum Director and Special Education Director. The position of superintendent will be eliminated.

The school board is expecting a parent-initiated warrant article for full-time kindergarten. If successful, this will increase the budget by 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 %. Additionally, the gymnasium/community room roof needs to be replaced. Given the current interest rates, the school board anticipates taking a 20 year loan for the projected \$200,000 cost, which would amount to approximately \$22,000 per year over the life of the loan. Mr. Valence stated that the school is trying to be as cost effective as possible without a loss of services or quality of education. He believes the proposal is a more robust model for school administration.

The next meeting will be TUESDAY, January 10, 2017 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Brotman