

Town of Newington, NH
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 22, 2020 Town Hall

Chair John Lamson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

Present: Chair, John Lamson, Brandon Arsenault, School Board Rep, Jack O'Reilly, Emily Savinelli, John Chamberlain, William Wright, , Selectmen's Rep, Ken Latchaw, Chair, Board of Selectmen, Ted Connors, Selectman, Mike Marconi, Board of Fire Engineer Chair, John Klanchesser, Newington School Principal, Peter Latchaw, SAU 50 Superintendent, Salvatore Petralia, SAU 50 Assistant Superintendent, Kelli Killen, SAU 50 Business Administrator, Mindy Ryan, SAU 50 Special Education Director, Sarah Reinhardt, SAU 50 Director of Technology, Brian Grattan, Samara Robertson, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

K. Latchaw moved to approve the minutes of January 8th, 2020 as amended. J. O'Reilly seconded the motion, with W. Wright abstaining and all others in favor.

K. Latchaw moved to approve the minutes of January 15th, 2020. J. O'Reilly seconded the motion, with all in favor.

School District Budget Review:

J. Lamson asked for a motion to approve the School budget of \$2,279,131.

B. Arsenault moved to tentatively approve the School budget of \$2,279,131.

K. Latchaw seconded the motion.

Mindy Ryan presented the school budget to the Budget Committee. The 2020-2021 budget is \$68,000 more than the previous year. There is a \$75,000 increase in the teacher salary line due to the school hiring an additional full-time teacher. P. Latchaw explained that the Newington School enrollment has increased in the last couple of years and another teacher is needed. This teacher would be an instruction coach for math and literacy and a permanent substitute teacher. J. Lamson pointed out that it is very hard to get substitutes. E. Savinelli pointed out that the school currently does not have a reading specialist, this new position is needed. Discussion ensued on previous budget comparisons to the current budget, Portsmouth tuition, the Special Education budget and the impact on the number of tuition students for Newington, the process to hire new staff, the textbook replacement 5-year plan, special education. J. Lamson asked about the addition of a 25% Guidance staff member. P. Latchaw explained that the school currently has a part time guidance counselor. J. Lamson asked about the

preschool expense. M. Ryan explained that the SAU has a preschool for 3-year-old and up. There is one technology director for the whole SAU. The director is currently working on a 3-year tech plan for the SAU and a full audit of their products and the best plan for purchasing and selling back. B. Wright asked how many weeks teachers work. S. Petralia said that the current contract is for 188 days per school year. J. O'Reilly pointed out that the school saves a lot of money on maintenance because the principal and the chef do a lot of the maintenance themselves.

J. Lamson called for a vote on the School budget and all were in favor of \$2,279,131.

Coast Bus-Selectmen's Budget Adjustment-\$4,068:

M. Roy explained that there was a clerical error in the COAST bus Regional Association line and \$38,304 was entered in the budget. The correct number is \$34,236. **K. Latchaw moved to reduce the Coast budget amount by \$4,068. J. O'Reilly seconded the motion with all in favor.**

Fire Department Addition Warrant Article:

The Board of Selectmen have recommended this warrant article for \$125,000. T. Connors explained that over that last couple of years the Board of Selectmen were approached by the Fire Dept. about this addition and were told that it was needed for the health and safety of the fire fighters. That is why the Board recommended it. K. Latchaw said that he had met with the architect and was told that the building is structurally sound and could accept an addition. Also, the roof still has some life in it. The Architect recommended that the insulation could be done at the same time as the roof. J. Lamson asked that the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Fire Engineers get together and try and work this out. There is no point in the Budget Committee deciding until the two boards have talked. T. Connors said the two boards will meet next week.

J. O'Reilly moved to adjourn at 8:00pm. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

**Eleanor Boy
Recorder**