

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2009
Town Hall 7:00pm

Preliminary

Chr. Larry Wahl called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

Present: Chairman Larry Wahl, Helen Maldini-School Board Rep, Gail Pare, Gail Klanchesser, Tom Benson, Russ Cooke, Jack O'Reilly – Selectmen's Rep, Administrative Assistant Bea Marconi, Representing the SAU District-Jim Katkin and Newington Elementary Principal Dr. Helen Rist.

Minute Approval: *G. Klanchesser moved to approve the minutes of January 14, 2009. H. Maldini seconded. Motion passed with amendments* with G. Pare abstaining. (Chf Tretter will bring ACO detail to *public hearing*-pg 1; *Asst* Fire Chief felt adding \$39,000 back into the budget was more realistic-pg 3; FICA/MEDI could be reduced due to the *over time* line reduction- pg 2; and on page 3, it was determined not to present this article this year but to *budget* for the need as it really etc.

School Department 2009 Budget Request - \$ 1,870,651. *Passed*
G Klanchesser moved to tentatively recommend a School Budget of \$1,870,651. Helen Maldini seconded.

With the SAU having computer software failure last week, the Committee congratulated Jim on completion of their budget book under such adverse conditions.

The total budget is up \$58,000 which represents an increase of 3.2%. Tuition for both the Middle and High Schools is up although number of students is down. There are 17 in the Middle School and we went from 42 to 38 in the High School. The Area Agreement is still being negotiated as some costs and billing philosophies are not agreed upon.

Salaries and Benefits are up \$24,000.

Staffing has been adjusted which resulted in reduction of some staff in some areas such as speech, special aids and custodial.

Kindergarten has been increased to cover a full day.

Next year marks the third year of the collective bargaining contract.

Special Ed down due to cost shifting and now shown amongst 1,100 students. This will reduce swings. Staffing adjustments were also applied.

Superintendants' Office staff reduced.

Speech Therapist reduced down by 20%.

You'll find food service/grants/transportation up about \$9,000 due to utility cost increases. We came off a five year bussing contract also which yielded a 3% increase.

85% of total budget is salaries and benefits.

Mr. Katkin predicts, should our valuations stay constant, a 22 cent increase.

Tuitions in both the Middle and High Schools going up primarily had the biggest impact on the increase.

NH Retirement contributions going up.

Health Insurance wasn't bad this year and has a 2.9% cap on it for next year.

Substitute costs up \$2,800 and Building Administration salaries up 3%.

Jim does not expect a need for a special language teacher next year.

Next year, the unreserved fund balance will be reduced by \$130,000.

Selectmen's Rep J.O'Reilly noted that in looking at the projected 22 cent increase translates to about 2 ½ % town wide.

Discussion went on about scores and the size of our school and how we can't be State rated because of our size in some areas, however the school itself does a rating.

Substitutes were budgeted for \$4,200 - \$ 6,800 ended up being spent.

Recreation Committee bought the school leather indoor basket balls and Principal Rist wanted to add that the School Supporters have been a big support and help too.

School is wireless as far as internet connectivity.

The after school enrichment program is working out and is self sustaining.

Audit costs jumped from \$1,800 to \$2,500/\$3,500 due to new requirements for GASB.

Telephone (Communications One) jumped. The School did not qualify for the E-Rate but they expect to do so next year.

Mr. Katkin said he is happy with the balance in the maintenance cap reserve which is between \$110,000 and 114,000.

Helen Maldini thanked Mr. Katkin on behalf of the Budget Committee for his hard work and rulers.

Fire Department Amended Budget

Chr. Wahl handed out information supplied by the Fire Department and asked that the AA send a note to the Fire Dept asking them to come to the meeting on the 28th. Starts at 6:30pm

J. O'Reilly told the committee that sign ups for office are now going on. Liz Taccetta, Gail Pare and John Lamson are up plus there is an opening.

Public Hearing for Highway Garage and Salt Shed construction is scheduled for Monday, January 26 beginning at 6:30pm.

G Klanchesser motioned to adjourn. G Pare seconded. Motion passed at 8:34pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Beatrice Marconi
Administrative Assistant