

Town of Newington, NH
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 17, 2018 Town Hall

Chair John Lamson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Present: John Lamson, Chair, Brandon Arsenault, Vice-Chair, Katherine Latchaw, Rick Stern, Jennifer Kent Wiener, James Belanger, Alan Wilson, David Mueller, School Board Rep, Ted Connors-Selectmen's rep, Amy Ransom, SAU50 Assistant Business Manager, Peter Latchaw, School Principal, Jack O'Reilly, School Board Member, Andy Head, Fire Chief, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

School Budget Review:

J. Belanger moved to tentatively approve the School budget of \$2,249,905.

K. Latchaw seconded the motion.

Amy Ransom, SAU 50 Asst. Business Administrator presented the School budget to the Budget Committee. The Committee asked about the lack of the SAU's ability to have a voice about the Portsmouth tuition. They expect the tax rate to increase by \$.146 per thousand with the budget presented. A. Ransom discussed the teacher's salaries, Greenland's full day kindergarten and the impact on the number of tuition students for Newington. The Newington school's current enrollment is 46, 14 of these students are tuitioned students. The expected enrollment for the 2018-2019 is between 42-48 for the Newington School. The Junior High and High School students total 30 currently and are projected for next year at 33 students. P. Latchaw stated that Newington students do very well on the standardized testing in NH. J. Kent Weiner asked for clarification on the 5.17% increase without warrant articles, the Portsmouth Middle School tuition and math books. J. Belanger inquired about the tuition formula.

J. Lamson called for a vote on the School budget and all were in favor with D. Mueller abstaining.

Fire Department Budget Review:

Andy Head presented the Fire Department's revised budget to the committee. In the original budget the Fire Chief's position had been reduced to part time (32 hours per week) . The new version showed this position at full time with an increase to the Deputy Chief's hours of 5 hours per week. The part time salary line was increased by approximately \$17,000. The Board of Selectmen recommended the part time salary line be decreased to \$10,000 and they supported the increased hours for the Deputy Chief. B. Arsenault questioned the Chief on several budget items including the sick pay expense line, the detail expense line and the training salary line.

R. Stern moved to approve the Selectmen's recommended total budget of \$1,684,012. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with B. Arsenault opposed and all others in favor.

January 3rd minutes review: J. Belanger thought that he was misquoted in the January 3rd, 2018 minutes. He explained that he didn't want to know which committee member was in favor of what in discussions; he wanted a summation of the pros and cons of items discussed.

K. Latchaw moved to approve the amended minutes of January 3, 2018.

B. Arsenault seconded the motion, with D. Mueller abstaining and all others in favor.

J. Kent Weiner moved to adjourn at 8:21pm. B. Arsenault seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

**Eleanor Boy
Recorder**