

Town of Newington, NH  
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 19, 2018 Town Hall

Chair John Lamson announced that there is one opening on the Budget Committee. If anyone knows someone who would be a good addition to the committee, please encourage them to write a letter or email the Selectmen stating their interest in serving.

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

**Present:** Budget Committee members: John Lamson, Chair; Brandon Arsenault, Vice-Chair; Sandra Sweeney, Jamie Belanger, Alan Wilson, School Board rep. Jack O'Reilly, , Selectman's rep. Ted Connors, Amy RansomMartha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recording Secretary

**Absent:** Katherine Latchaw, Jennifer Kent Weiner and William Wright

**Guests:** Selectman, Mike Marconi, Selectman, Ken Latchaw, Amy Ranson, SAU 50 Business Administrator and Peter Latchaw, Newington School Principal

**School Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Budget Review:** A. Ranson reviewed the school year- end budget. She noted that there was an unassigned fund balance of approximately \$57,964 that will reduce the school tax rate this fall. She further noted that there is an SAU surplus of \$41,406 this year that is being returned school. There are 52 students enrolled this year. Of those 52 students 12 of them pay tuition. There are 10 kindergartners (only 1 tuition student) this year. Half tuition is offered to employees' children and grandchildren of the school district. The Special Education expense increased because of increased services. A. Ranson is hoping that the additional expense can be absorbed in the budget and hopes to not tap into the Special Education capital reserve account. The cost per student for 2017-2018 is \$27,982. The cost per student for 2016-2017 was \$23,414. There was a \$10,178 loss in the food service program. J. Lamson suggested that the school reach out to the townspeople to come for luncheons at the school. Some schools have a "Grandfriend" day. P. Latchaw told the committee that the school building is in good shape, they may need to get the parking lot paved soon. The school is having an energy audit done in the Spring to help with making future plans for the building. J. Belanger asked about the transportation issues and if the later pick up time is working out. P. Latchaw believes it is working, ridership is up, less parents driving kids to school. S. Sweeney asked if there was any discussion about putting air conditioning throughout the whole building. The energy audit this spring should get an answer to that question. B.

Arsenault asked about the 3-year plan for text books and replacing the hardware in the computers. P. Latchaw stated that they are “right on track” for replacing the text books and hardware.

**2018/2019 Budget Committee Schedule:** The Committee agreed on a schedule of meetings for the 2018 and 2019 season. They are as follows: December 5 and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018, January 9, 16 and 23, 2019, with a public hearing on February 6<sup>th</sup>. J. Belanger asked if the Committee could meet on a different day of the week. M. Roy asked if the meeting could be moved to 6:30 or 6pm. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of the different days and times. **T. Connors moved to accept the schedule as presented. S. Sweeney seconded the motion with J. Belanger opposed and all others in favor.**

**Election of Officers:** J. Belanger nominated J. Lamson to the position of Budget Committee Chair. J. O’Reilly seconded the nomination. Hearing no further nominations, the vote was called, and all were in favor.

J. O’Reilly nominated Brandon Arsenault to the position of Vice Chair of the Budget Committee. J. Belanger seconded the nomination. Hearing no further nominations, the vote was called, and all were in favor.

**Town Budget through 8/31/18 Review:**

M. Roy updated the Committee on the current year budget. Discussion ensued about the Volunteer dinner, the process of absorbing a cost in the current budget or using the capital reserve funds, funding Coast Bus, saw cutting roads instead of paving the road, the extension of Shattuck way, the bridge rehab, the Little Bay Road culvert repair, the remaining paving projects for 2018 and drainage management.

K. Latchaw stated that the Recreation Committee did an excellent job on Septemberfest. A great time was had by all.

J. Belanger inquired about the payments to the Coakley Landfill project. M. Roy explained that the Town of Newington had signed an agreement year ago with the Coakley Landfill Group and we must adhere to it.

T. Connors was asked to give quarterly “water quality concerns reports” in the newsletter.

**Minutes Approval:** J. Belanger moved to approve the minutes of February 1st, 2018. S. Sweeney seconded the motion with J. O’Reilly and B. Arsenault abstaining and all others in favor.

**Adjournment: J. O'Reilly moved to adjourn at 8:55pm. B. Arsenault seconded the motion with all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Boy  
Recording Secretary