

Town of Greenland  
Budget Committee  
Public Hearing  
Thursday, February 5, 2009  
Greenland Central School

**Present:** Budget Committee Members: Mary McDonough, Chairperson, R.B. Lawrence, Sandra Trull Smith, Mike Marsh, Bob Krasko, Jim Haslam, school board representative, Paul Sanderson, Selectman's representative

**Absent:** John Weeks, Patrick Walsh, Ron Gross

**Other's Present:** Karen Anderson (Town Administrator); Selectmen representatives Mo Sodini, Bruce Dearborn, and Charles Cummings; Members of the School Board Martha Stone, Richard Carlin, Tina Rockefeller, Ann Mayer, George Cushing (Superintendent of Schools), Jim Katkin (School Business Administrator), Peter Smith (principal); Denise Grimse (librarian); and approximately 26 other Greenland residents.

The Public Hearing on the proposed budgets for 2009-2010 for the Town of Greenland and the Greenland School District was called to order at 6:35 P.M. by Mrs. McDonough who then introduced members of the Budget Committee. Mrs. McDonough requested that the public who would wish to speak identify themselves by name and address and speak loud enough for all to hear.

Mrs. McDonough proceeded to review the school proposed 2009-2010 operating budget on a line by line basis. No comments were noted during the review of the proposed budget. The proposed warrant articles were reviewed. Mr. Katkin was asked by the chair to answer any questions which arose.

The warrant articles were then reviewed.

**Article 1:** Operating Budget: question was raised by Chis Halligan as to the difference between the school board recommended and the budget committee recommended budgets. The difference being the swivel chairs and field hockey goals.

**Article 2:** \$134,274 to cover the cost of the collective bargaining agreement with the Coastal Teacher's Association.

- Annie Kelley questioned where the amount of 4.25% was obtained; stated that not supporting the raise did not mean we are not supporting the teachers. Thought 4.25% was too high given the economy. Thought number given by GPO was inaccurate on Medicare increase; Mike Marsh addressed.
- Chris Halligan spoke in favor of it based on rationale that tax rate would not be affected since total budget dollars are down this year.
- Mo Sodini spoke in favor of adding field goals back into budget since they need to be replaced.
- Chris Hamel asked how COLA and CIP are different: Mike Marsh explained
- Michele DeCondro spoke in favor of the contract because “the teachers deserve it.”

Straw poll: 16 in favor-2 against

**Article 4:** \$20,400 for transfer of monies from SAU rental property to pay for repairs, etc.  
•no public comment: straw poll- in favor of passing.

**Article 5:** \$50,000 for deficit appropriation for additional cost of high school tuition.

- Discussed fact there are more high school students than expected
- Pam Tucker asked Mr. Katkin to clarify if that we don't pay for students to go to private schools: Mr. Katkin stated we do not pay for private school tuition except for children with special needs
- Mo Sodini asked if this amount would be reduced at School District meeting if we found less students attending and thus less tuition. Mr. Katkin explained it could be reduced at that time.

**Article 6:** \$60,000 for a generator at the school

- Mary McDonough and Paul Sanderson explained the history of the warrant article.
- Mr. Katkin explained it is a 100 kw generator
- Mo Sodini asked if there is enough money appropriated
- Mr. Katkin explained amount is based on an actual estimate from the same company which installed the generator at the police station.
- Mo Sodini spoke in favor of passing this article.

After conclusion of the school budget, the majority of the attendees left.

The town proposed operating budget was addressed next. The changes made by the budget committee were reviewed (see attached sheet). No comments were made during this section. The warrant articles were addressed next. Mr. Sanderson did explain the selectman's rationale for using unreserved fund balance to cover the cost of several of these items. Mr. Marsh did comment that we may also want to consider that we may need some of these monies for tax relief next year.

**Article 17:** operating budget

**Article 18:** \$50,000 to add to the capital reserve fund for the Weeks Public Library

- no discussion
- Straw poll 8 in favor, 2 against

**Article 19:** \$50,000 To be added to the capital reserve fund to complete work on Portsmouth Avenue.

- straw poll; all in favor

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**Article 20:** \$50,000 to establish a capital reserve fund for the purpose of construction and maintenance of town property.

- straw poll; in favor

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**Article 21:** \$31,100 for the purpose of purchasing a police cruiser

- Anne Mayer asked why this was not taken from surplus funds
- Mr. Sanderson explained that it was thought this was an expected tax burden
- straw poll: in favor

**Article 22:** \$30,000 to start an Expendable Trust fund for the purpose of unanticipated storm expenses.

- Tina Rockefeller asked how this was different from Article 20
- Straw poll; all in favor except one against

**Article 23:** \$12,000 for the purpose of purchasing a new stretcher for the Fire Department

- straw poll; all in favor

**Article 24:** \$7,700 for the library trust expendable trust fund for the purpose of emergencies

- Straw poll; in favor

**Article 25:** \$7,500 for retirement liabilities trust fund

- straw poll; in favor

**Article 26:** \$6,000 to provide town employees with life insurance and long term disability

- Sandy Tague asked if this was a new benefit

- straw poll; in favor

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**Article 27:** \$3,000 for COAST bus

- straw poll; in favor

**Article 28:** \$2,500 for Mosquito Control Expendable Trust fund for emergencies

- Anne Mayer asked how much we have in the fund now (\$2,500 from last year)

- straw poll; in favor

It was announced that the budget meeting scheduled for 2-18-09 was changed to 2-10-09 at 6:30 at town hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary McDonough,  
Chair Budget Committee