



BUDGET COMMITTEE
Town of Greenland • Greenland, NH 03840
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MINUTES OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING

Wednesday, January 22, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Chair Mary McDonough, Toby Fedder, Steve Gerrato, Chris Halligan, Bob Krasko, Steve McKenzie, Don Miller, John Penacho - Selectmen's Rep, Mark Raque, Jim Trowell, Pat Walsh – School Board Rep

Also Present: Len Couture – School Board Chairman

Chair McDonough opened the Budget Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. and a roll call was taken. The Chair stated that a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

1. Public Hearing Draft Minutes: Thursday, January 16, 2014

Chair McDonough reviewed the draft minutes from the School Budget Public Hearing on Thursday, January 16, 2014. The overall recommended reduction in the budget was approximately \$38,000. There was a discussion regarding a reduction in the Special Education account, which is a mandated service. Mr. Penacho suggested a detailed review of that account at the end of the year.

Mr. Walsh stated that Peter Smith, GCS Principal, anticipates two (2) additional teachers next school year; only one (1) was included in the budget.

SCHOOL BUDGET - FINAL REVIEW

Mr. Walsh gave an update on the School Board meeting held Tuesday, January 21, 2014. He reminded the Budget Committee that the Deliberative Session needed to be posted prior to the hearing on Monday, February 03, 2014.

The Budget Committee discussed reductions being made by line item due to time constraints; many would have preferred a percentage cut. Mr. Fedder expressed his concern about reducing a budget without the background knowledge of its basis. Mr. Halligan felt a large portion of those attending the public hearing were in favor of this budget. The per student cost has remained relatively flat over the last few years. Mr. Trowell reminded members that the school was asked to make severe cuts last year; he expected an increase this year. He continued that he felt comfortable with the budget as it is now and that the school did a great job. The reduction this year was minimal.

Mr. Walsh stated that high school tuition and Special Education were the unknown factors. Chair McDonough reminded members that at a previous meeting there was a discussion about unused tuition funds being put into an expendable trust fund. Mr. Walsh responded that it was discussed at the School Board meeting on Tuesday evening, as well as possibly combining tuition with Special Education. Mr. Penacho suggested a warrant article.

Chair McDonough suggested that next year the Budget Committee meet earlier rather than waiting until the budgets are submitted. The Board could set the perimeters for increases for the School and Town; guidelines for review of the budgets could also be established. Mr. Couture added that the School Board is planning to meet quarterly regarding the budget.

The final operating budget being moved forward to Deliberative Session on Monday, February 03, 2014, will be in the amount of \$8,484,583 (including a warrant article of \$20,400).

MOTION: *Mr. Penacho moved to approve the School budget for the 2014-2015 school year in the amount of \$8,464,183. Second – Mr. McKenzie; nine (9) in favor, two (2) opposed. MOTION CARRIED*

Chair McDonough updated the Board on those members up for term renewal: Chair McDonough, Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Trowell. The filing period is January 22, 2014 through January 31, 2014; you will need to see the Town Clerk.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *Mr. Penacho moved to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Second – Mr. Miller; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED*

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 29, 2014 – 6:30 p.m., TOWN BUDGET REVIEW, Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted – Charlotte Hussey, Board Secretary

Approved: