



BUDGET COMMITTEE
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MINUTES OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING

Tuesday, January 04, 2022 – 6:30 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Todd Cadle, Mark Connelly, Frank Hansler, Bob Krasko, Sharon Hussey-McLaughlin (by phone), Don Miller, Zack Pike, Paul Sanderson, Jamie Connelly – Selectmen's Rep, Pat Walsh – School Board Rep

Members Absent: Mike Bilodeau

Present: Matt Scruton – Town Administrator; Steve Smith – Chairman, Board of Selectmen; Ralph Cresta – Fire Chief; Tara Laurent – Police Chief; Marcia McLaughlin – Chairman, Weeks Library Trustees; Sal Petralia – SAU 50 Superintendent of Schools; Susan Penny – SAU 50 Business Administrator; Tamara Hallee – Principal, Greenland Central School; School Department Personnel

B. Krasko opened the Budget Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. A roll call was taken; B. Krasko announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded. The purpose of this meeting was to review the Town and School budgets.

Town Budget Review

MOTION: B. Krasko moved to move the Budget Committee's proposed Town budget to public hearing.

M. Connelly stated he would not second the motion until after the public hearing. Z. Pike stated there was a miscommunication with the Library budget. The Library budget was short on benefits \$15,000 to \$16,000 for a position that will be replaced. Funds were not included in their budget for benefits for the new person. Marcia McLaughlin, 47 Nantucket Place and Weeks Library Trustees Chairman, stated the Library budget does not show benefits for their second full-time employee. The current full-time employee does not receive any benefits. The number submitted at the meeting on December 28, 2021, was \$16,305.78, for six months of benefits. This amount was recommended by the State for benefits in case the current librarian should retire before August. She requested that amount be added to the Library budget. TA Scruton noted that the Budget Committee discussed the issue at their meeting on December 28th and opted to leave the Library at the lower number and move it forward to Deliberative Session. Responding to P. Sanderson, M. McLaughlin stated the Library was requesting an additional \$16,305 in order to provide benefits which are not included in their budget. P. Sanderson clarified that the Budget Committee was being asked to add \$16,305 to the Selectmen's recommended budget.

MOTION: Z. Pike moved to add \$16,305 to the Library budget submitted by the Selectmen. Second – P. Walsh; 6 in favor, 4 against. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: B. Krasko moved to forward the Budget Committee's Town budget to public hearing on Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

P. Walsh questioned if the Budget Committee wanted to address the wage increase. B. Krasko noted the Board of Selectmen submitted 3%. There was no discussion.

MOTION: J. Connelly moved to add \$290,000 back into the Road Maintenance line.

P. Sanderson stated that the impact of what was just moved to the public hearing with the Selectmen's budget would mean taking their recommended number of \$5,929,266 and add \$16,305 (Library). At the public hearing, \$5,945,571 would be discussed. P. Sanderson noted the Budget Committee has not taken a position on what should go to Deliberative Session. TA Scruton stated that they would be adding funds into the Budget Committee's recommended budget of \$5,660,596 and moved forward.

MOTION: J. Connelly moved to add \$290,000 back into the Road Maintenance line. There was no second.

MOTION: B. Krasko moved to forward the Budget Committee's Town budget in the amount of \$5,660,596 to public hearing on Tuesday, January 11, 2022. Second – D. Miller; 6 in favor, 4 against. MOTION CARRIED

B. Krasko informed members that the Selectmen have not changed the warrant articles. TA Scruton noted that the closure of the Library CRF was withdrawn as requested by the Library Trustees and Trustees of the Trust Funds. TA Scruton discussed the Budget Committee's request that the Selectmen review the funding source of the warrant articles; they decided to leave as is. Warrant articles can be amended at Deliberative Session. P. Sanderson stated that if the end of year numbers/expenses hold, there would be a lapse of \$863,129; the unreserved fund balance would be over \$2.8 million. TA Scruton stated that funds have been encumbered for various road projects and all invoices for 2021 have not been received. The Town does expect to return a significant amount.

Bonding the Great Bay Farm conservation easement was discussed. TA Scruton clarified that the \$200,000 for the easement will be taken from a specific capital reserve fund that has been established for that purpose. If both warrant articles are approved, the Town could pay \$925,000 for the easement.

School Budget Review

Sue Penney, SAU 50 Business Administrator, addressed the School budget. An amended budget was distributed. The School budget is \$12,958,226. The difference between the 2021 and 2022 budgets is \$366,567. The tax impact would be approximately \$0.42 per thousand. P. Walsh stated that due to a quote received for handicap ramps that was \$6,000 less, the School budget could comfortably be reduced by that amount. P. Walsh and F. Hansler will do a walk-through of the building. P. Walsh was hoping to provide the committee with updated quotes at the public hearing.

MOTION: D. Miller moved to reduce line 10.4600.450.00.10 by \$6,000 for a total of \$31,665. Second – Z. Pike; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: D. Miller moved to submit to public hearing the School budget in the amount of \$12,952,226. Second – Z. Pike; 8 in favor, 2 against. MOTION CARRIED

School warrant articles were discussed: Operating Budget; Collective Bargaining Agreement (4 years); Buildings and Grounds; Technology. Building and Grounds and Technology would not be funded unless there was a reserve balance at the end of the fiscal year.

P. Walsh mentioned that the bond, approximately \$328,000, would be gone next year.

DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Public Hearing

The public hearing will be held at Greenland School on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at 6:30 pm. P. Walsh will check on streaming the meeting. P. Sanderson felt it would be very important for the public to hear the discussions. The Budget Committee will make their recommendations immediately after the public hearing. Those recommendations will go to Deliberative Sessions.

Adjournment

MOTION: D. Miller moved to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Second – P. Sanderson; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 – 6:30 p.m., Greenland School – Public Hearing

Submitted By: Charlotte Hussey, Administrative Assistant