



BUDGET COMMITTEE
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MINUTES OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING

Tuesday, December 04, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Jamie Connelly, Mark Connelly, Frank Hansler, Bob Krasko, Don Miller, John Penacho, Patty Porter, Randy Bunnell – School Board Rep, Chip Hussey – Selectmen's Rep

Member by Phone: Steve McKenzie

Late Arrival: Sharon Hussey

Also Present: Amy Ransom - SAU 50 Business Administrator; Salvatore Petralia – SAU 50 Superintendent of Schools; Sarah Reinhardt – SAU 50 Special Education Director; Tamara Hallee – Principal, Greenland School; School Board Members

Chair Krasko opened the Budget Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. A roll call was taken by the Chair; he announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

1. Approval of Minutes: Tuesday, November 27, 2018 and Thursday, November 29, 2018

MOTION: D. Miller moved to approve the minutes of Tuesday, November 27, 2018 and Thursday, November 29, 2018. Second – P. Porter; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

2. School Budget Review

Information requested by Committee members was distributed and explained by A. Ransom. Included was a comparison of Special Education students as of October 01, 2018, pre-school through Grade 12; the time frame was 2014 through 2018, not broken down by grade.

Also included was the three year vs. five year average of Portsmouth High School tuition. The average percent increase for five years was 3.71%; the last three years was 2.34%. Greenland was told by Portsmouth School Department to use the estimate of \$17,350 or 2.68%. A. Ransom included an analysis that gave two options to reduce the Tuition budget by \$38,577 or \$26,887.

Requests from the Technology Department were included. R. Bunnell added that the amount of \$30,600 in that budget was removed; it was a duplication of the laptop request.

MOTION: J. Penacho moved to reduce the High School Tuition line by \$50,000. Second – C. Hussey

Discussion: There is \$188,000 in the reserve account. J. Penacho explained that looking at the numbers he felt the money in reserve would be sufficient to cover any excess students. The estimates have been a little high the last several years. S. McKenzie spoke in support of J. Penacho's comments; he was also unhappy with the same number being in the default budget and felt it was uncalled for. A. Ransom stated there was not a warrant article for the Tuition reserve fund.

DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MOTION: J. Penacho moved to reduce the High School Tuition line by \$50,000. Second – C. Hussey; eight in favor, three against. MOTION CARRIED

HVAC System: A. Ransom explained there are problems with the heating system in the gym. A filtration system will need to be added; water testing for lead will need to be done every year for three years to any area a child has access.

Transportation: The Superintendent is working with the Board on ridership and routes. The School Department is required to transport students. R. Bunnell added that ridership is less in the morning than the afternoon. They are entering into a new bus contract; they are asking for optimization of the routes.

Special Ed Transportation: Anything tied to an IEP is mandated by federal law; it must be fully funded. A. Ransom distributed notices to Committee members indicating that federal guidelines and laws must be followed for students and their IEP. If their IEP states specialized transportation is needed, the district is responsible. S. McKenzie questioned the increase of \$37,000 for one year. A. Ransom explained that depending on the need, that's the cost of specialized transportation. She has a legal opinion and has verified that Special Ed transportation can be included in the default budget.

Health Insurance: The increase for teachers under the CBA contract can go into the default budget due to the change in the law; increases for those not under the CBA go into the proposed budget.

Building and Grounds Upkeep: Increased from \$7,000 to \$25,000. A. Ransom explained it included new fencing, tree trimming of overhanging trees, improvements to the parking lot, etc. T. Hallee has a complete listing.

Warrant Articles: A rough draft of warrant articles was distributed and reviewed.

MOTION: J. Penacho moved to not have a meeting on Tuesday, December 11, 2018. Second – D. Miller; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

3. Adjournment

MOTION: J. Penacho moved to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. Second – D. Miller; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 08, 2019 – 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room (Final Review: Town and School Budgets and Warrant Articles)

Thursday, January 10, 2019 – 6:30 p.m., Greenland School, Town and School Budget Public Hearing

**Monday, January 14, 2019 - 6:30 p.m., Greenland School, Town and School Budget Public Hearing
SNOW DATE**

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: