



BUDGET COMMITTEE
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MINUTES OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING

Tuesday, January 09, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. – Greenland Central School

Members Present: Chair Bob Krasko, James Connelly, Mark Connelly, Tibby Fogarty-Cail, Steve McKenzie, Sharon Hussey-McLaughlin, Don Miller, Patty Porter, Kristen Syphers, Randy Bunnell – School Board Rep,
Late Arrival: Chip Hussey – Selectmen's Rep

Also Present: Karen Anderson, Town Administrator; Vaughan Morgan – Chairman, Board of Selectmen; Members of the Board of Selectmen; Department Heads; School Board Members; Sal Petralia – SAU 50 Superintendent of Schools; Amy Ransom – SAU 50 Assistant Business Administrator; Tamara Hallee – Principal, Greenland School

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.

Note: Chester Deorocki was the Selectmen's Rep alternate for C. Hussey during the Town's portion of the public hearing.

Chair Krasko stated that no official votes would be taken during the public hearing. He asked for a show of hands indicating public support. Based on feedback the Budget Committee receives, final recommendations will be made to the budgets. Those recommendations will be forwarded to the Town's Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 03, 2018 and the School's Deliberative Session on Monday, February 05, 2018. Amendments can be made to the budgets and warrant articles at the Deliberative Sessions. Final voting will take place at the polls on Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

Town Budget Review

The budget and warrant articles were reviewed. K. Anderson was asked to explain the Health Insurance line and costs. She was encouraged by a resident to look at different options on the market that may save the Town money.

Library Bond Public Hearing

MOTION: D. Miller moved to open the public hearing. Second – Vaughan Morgan; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Chair Krasko explained this was a required public hearing on the bond for the Library expansion as required by the Municipal Finance Act. Amount of bond: \$2.9 million; gross budget for Library expansion: \$3,579,125. This is NOT recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Chair Krasko noted that the Budget Committee had not voted to recommend or not recommend the Library bond; that would be done after the public hearing.

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C. Deorocki stated that the bond was not recommended by the Board of Selectmen due to the size of the site and the number of entities involved in the project to make it work (School Board, Church, Library, and Town). Several residents spoke in favor of the bond for the Library expansion; the Board of Selectmen was asked to reconsider their recommendation.

Marcia McLaughlin, Chairman of the Library Trustees, stated they have worked very cooperatively with the School Board, Church and Library Trustees. The Building Committee has gone above and beyond in recent months to put together a plan that benefited the Town as a whole. She added that they were not the first group to put forward a Library addition, but was hoping they would be the last.

Vaughan Morgan, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, stated he did not recommend the Library. He gave the Library Trustees a lot of credit for what their hard work on this project. He continued it wasn't that the Selectmen didn't want a Library; they had to look at the whole picture and the tax impact on the Town—not just the young people, but also the older people on fixed incomes. V. Morgan reiterated that the Board was not anti-Library; they had to look at the whole picture. The Selectmen did not take the bond off the ballot so that residents could make an educated decision when voting.

MOTION: R. Bunnell moved to close the public hearing. Second – D. Miller; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Fire Station Roof/Structural Repairs: C. Deorocki explained that the Fire Station roof needed to be replaced because it was failing. If a new station is built, the existing building will be repurposed as a DPW, offices, or other municipal use.

Discontinuance of Mosquito CRF: K. Anderson explained that discontinuing this fund does not stop mosquito spraying. The Town's mosquito control contractor doesn't charge the Town if there is an emergency. They will spray all the recreation areas at no cost.

There was a short recess between the Town and School budgets.

School Budget Review

C. Hussey arrived late to the meeting.

The School budget and warrant articles were reviewed. The cost per student for Portsmouth High School tuition is \$17,500. There are currently 171.5 Greenland students attending Portsmouth High School; the total tuition cost is \$2,984,200. T. Hallee noted that enrollment at Greenland Central School is 426 students.

John Penacho questioned the budget increase of \$833,996 and the use of the Tuition Expendable Trust Fund. R. Bunnell explained that last year the tuition cost at PHS was understated by \$370,000. Special Education expenses (which are mandated by the State) and full day kindergarten also added to the cost. The teacher's contract was another contributing factor. R. Bunnell continued that to offset the tax increase, the School Board "dipped" into the expendable trust (reserve fund) and made up for the under allocated students. J. Penacho asked the original purpose of the trust fund. R. Bunnell responded that it was for unanticipated tuition costs for out of district students. A discussion took place regarding the trust fund and its purpose. J. Penacho stated that the trust funds are set up for a specific reason, adding the tuition fund was for unanticipated students and not a slush fund. R. Bunnell responded that the Budget Committee "made it right this year". J. Penacho stated he would like the trust fund rewritten so they could not use it to hide a budget situation. He would like the criteria more specific and rigid. He

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also wanted to see a “real” budget and know what he’s voting for; the tuition fund was an uncontrollable account. He told the Budget Committee they were doing a great job and knew it wasn’t easy.

Pat Walsh, School Board Chair, clarified to J. Penacho that was reduced last year at the request of the Budget Committee. It wasn’t being used as a slush fund and there was no maleficence intended. He did understand J. Penacho’s intention and they would look at his recommendation.

P. Walsh clarified that the two aides in the budget were the result of a federal grant that was discontinued. Staff wasn’t added; they were trying to maintain what they had.

Tuition Expendable Trust Fund: R. Bunnell explained that because the Budget Committee returned \$90,000 to the tuition line in the budget, the School Board would be discussing this warrant article again. It may or may not be included on the warrant.

B. Krasko stated that if the articles and budget for the School passed, it would an additional \$1.43 (this year \$9.89, increasing to \$11.32) impact on the tax rate. S. Huestis requested the tax impact from the Town budget and warrant articles. K. Anderson responded that the Library bond interest will add \$.08, the budget impact will be \$3.30 (this year is \$3.38); many of the warrant articles will be from reserve funds. She further explained the Town tries to keep \$1.5 million for cash flow. No surplus is expected from the 2017 budget; the snow budget is overspent by \$172,000 and another bill is expected.

Monday, February 05, 2018 is the School Deliberative Session; Tuesday, March 13, 2108 is voting day. Chair Krasko thanked those who attended the meeting and their courtesy with his initial public hearing as Chairman.

Town Warrant Article Recommendations

Article 6: Library Bond/Interest: C. Hussey explained that there were multiple problems on the site, including stormwater management and septic. If this were proposed by a private entity, it would not make it past the Planning Board. Some Budget Committee members expressed concern that the addition was too large and the foot print could be smaller. R. Bunnell stated the School Board is working with them on parking and would be giving the Library an easement.

MOTION: D. Miller moved the Budget Committee recommend Article 6. Second – T. Fogarty-Cail; eight in favor, two against (S. McKenzie, C. Hussey). MOTION CARRIED

Article 8 – New Fire Station Engineering/Design

MOTION: D. Miller moved the Budget Committee recommend Article 8. Second – J. Connelly; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Article 9 – Fire Station Roof: There was a discussion on the need to make roof and structural repairs on the existing Fire Station as well as repurposing the building.

MOTION: D. Miller moved the Budget Committee recommend Article 9. Second – R. Bunnell; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

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Article 10 – Fire Department Air Packs

MOTION: D. Miller moved the Budget Committee recommend Article 10. Second – R. Bunnell; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Article 11 – Road Improvement Fund

MOTION: C. Hussey moved the Budget Committee recommend Article 11. Second – D. Miller; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Article 12 – Discontinue Portsmouth Avenue CRF: Recommendation not required; not a money article.

Article 13 – Appropriate Portsmouth Avenue CRF Balance

MOTION: D. Miller moved the Budget Committee recommend Article 13. Second – R. Bunnell; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Article 14 – Appropriate \$21,199.30 from the Fund Balance to Road Improvement CRF to Transfer Remaining Funds from the Dearborn Road Project

MOTION: D. Miller moved the Budget Committee recommend Article 14. Second – R. Bunnell; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Article 15 – Transfer Station CRF

MOTION: J. Connelly moved the Budget Committee recommend Article 15. Second – S. McKenzie; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Article 16 – Town Equipment CRF

MOTION: C. Hussey moved the Budget Committee recommend Article 16. Second – D. Miller; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Article 17 – Krasko Field Building

MOTION: D. Miller moved the Budget Committee recommend Article 17. Second – S. Hussey-McLaughlin; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Article 18 – Ambulance Billing

MOTION: J. Connelly moved the Budget Committee recommend Article 18. Second – S. Hussey-McLaughlin; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Article 19 – Police Equipment CRF

MOTION: T. Fogarty-Cail moved the Budget Committee recommend Article 19. Second – R. Bunnell; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Article 20 – Discontinue Mosquito CRF: Recommendation not required; not a money article.

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Article 21 – Increase Stipend on Trustee of Trust Funds Bookkeeper to \$1,500

MOTION: C. Hussey moved the Budget Committee recommend Article 21. Second – P. Porter; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

School Warrant Articles

Article 02 - Replace Fire Panel

MOTION: D. Miller moved the Budget Committee recommend Article 02. Second – T. Fogarty-Cail; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Article 03 - Special Education Expendable Trust Fund

MOTION: D. Miller moved the Budget Committee recommend Article 03. Second – T. Fogarty-Cail; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Article 04 – School Buildings and Grounds Expendable Trust Fund

MOTION: C. Hussey moved the Budget Committee recommend Article 04. Second – P. Porter; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Article 05 – Tuition Expendable Trust Fund: There was a discussion about the \$90,000 that the Budget Committee previously returned to the School budget for tuition. Some members felt this article should not be recommended based on the \$90,000 being returned to the budget.

MOTION: D. Miller moved the Budget Committee not recommend Article 05. Second – T. Fogarty-Cail; seven in favor, three against. MOTION CARRIED

Article 06 – Discontinue School Health Insurance Trust: Recommendation not required; not a money article.

Adjournment: J. Connelly moved to adjourn at 8:54 p.m. Second – D. Miller; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETINGS

Saturday, February 03, 2018 – Town Deliberative Session, 9:00 a.m., Greenland School
Monday, February 05, 2018 – School Deliberative Session, 6:30 p.m., Greenland School

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: