

Approved

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes and Public Hearing for the School

January 13, 2011

Attendees: Chairman Ann Tierno, Allyn Chivers, Carla Penfield, Kim Byrd, Todd Allen, Craig Sandler, Selectmen's Rep. Carlton Robie, School Board Rep., Melissa Madden

Absent: Erin Asselin

Eight members present

Chairman Tierno called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Tierno suspended the Public Hearing at 7:02

A regular meeting of the Budget Committee was then opened at 7:02. This meeting was to discuss the business from the January 12 meeting that was canceled due to snow. On the agenda to discuss and approve the Teachers 2 year contract and other Warrant Articles on the School Budget .

Article # 2. School Rep. Melissa Madden presented and explained the two year teacher contract would start in the year 2012. It was explained that the School Board negotiated a change in insurance carriers that saved money and offered cost of living increases to the teachers of \$975 per person. The new state Evergreen law was discussed and its impact on the new contract. Because cost of living increases are offered and not salary increases the Evergreen law will not apply to this contract. The Teach Contract is recommended by the Budget Committee, yes 5 no 3

Article # 3. The School operating Budget for 2011-2012- Melissa Madden moved to accept the budget as written, Todd Allen seconded. The operating budget is recommended by the Budget Committee, yes 8, no 0

Article # 4, The renovation of the bathrooms in the 1936 wing of the of school, this would be the old building. Carla Penfield moved to recommend this article, Todd Allen second. The Committee voted to recommend, yes 8, no 0

Article # 5, The replacement of the boiler system, the money to come from the Capital Reserve Fund. Allyn Chivers moved to recommend the article, Carlton Robie second. The Committee voted to recommend, yes 8, no 0

Article # 6, Money to be placed in the Technology Fund if there is a surplus in the budget at the end of the school year 2011. There was some discussion about the amount of the money currently in the Technology Fund. Melissa Madden answered questions. The School Board has a goal of \$50,000.00 for that fund. Todd Allen moved to recommend the article, Allyn Chivers second. The committee voted to recommend, yes 8, no 0

Article #7, To create an expendable Textbook Fund with money to come from any surplus in the budget at the end of the 2011 school year. There was discussion about this article. Carla Penfield stated that she felt books should come from the regular operating budget. Melissa Madden explained that on occasion the cost of books sometimes exceeds what the regular budget allows. This fund will allow the collection of money to make a larger than normal purchase of books. Allyn Chivers moved to recommend the article, Todd Allen second. The committee voted to recommend, yes 5, no 3.

Article #8, To create a Playground Fund with money to come from any surplus in the budget at the end of the school year 2011. There was discussion about this article. School Board Rep. Melissa Madden explained that monies have been raised from public donation and events for playground improvement. This money is the balance needed to do the project. Members indicated they did not think it necessary to establish a fund for a one-time expense. Allyn Chivers moved to not recommend this article, Craig Sandler second. The committee vote not to recommend, yes 7, no 1

The regular Budget Committee was suspended until after the public hearing at 7:36 pm.

The Public Hearing for the School Budget was un-suspended at 7:36pm.

Chairman Tierno welcomed the public and asked Melissa Madden to read article # 3, the total monies for the 2011 – 2012 School Operating Budget. A question from the public concerning the default budget was asked. This question concerned insurance for the part time non contract employees at the school. Health benefits for the part time school employees have been rescinded, the question, “if the default budget for 2011-2012 were put in place would those benefits be restored”. School Board Rep. Melissa Madden answered that they would not. Some members of the public stated they were present at the meeting to discuss the rescinding of these health benefits. Chairman Tierno explained that the non contract health benefits have nothing to do with the Budget Committee it was a School Board decision. If the public has questions about these health benefits and having them reinstated that discussion should be taken up with the school board and at the School Deliberative Session on February 5th.

Chairman Tierno moved discussion to the number warrant articles

Article # 3, discussion about the teacher contract. Melissa Madden answered questions concerning the \$50,000.00 cap for retirement.

Articles #2 , #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, no discussion

Article #8, a question from the public regarding the \$2000 for the playground. The public asked if the money for the playground was raised solely through fundraising and if the \$2,000 would complete the project. Melissa Madden answered the questions in the affirmative.

Allyn Chivers made a motion to end the Public Hearing and continue with the regular Budget Committee meeting, second by Carlton Robie

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:50

The Regular Budget Committee opened at 7:50

Chairman Tierno explained that the committee would address and discuss the Town Warrant Articles.

Carla Penfield asked for further explanation about the non contract school employees and the discontinuation of the health benefits. School Board Rep. Melissa Madden answered question explaining: 1. The employees in question worked on average of 6 hours per day, 180 days per year. The benefits were put in place several years ago. The School Board felt these benefits were no longer appropriate.

Chairman Tierno commenced with discussion of the numbered warrant articles

Article # 3, the regular operating budget. Melissa Madden moved to recommend the article, second Todd Allen. The committee voted to recommend yes 8, no 0

Article # 4 – 15 and #34, these are all the articles contributing monies to various charitable organizations. Carlton Robie moved to recommend these articles, second Melissa Madden. The committee voted to recommend yes 8, no 0.

Article #16 Money for the town building maintenance fund. Chairman Tierno recognized Carlton Robie who explained the fund and the necessary repairs on the Town Office Building. Allyn Chivers moved to recommend the article, second Todd Allen. The committee voted to recommend yes 8, no 0.

Article #17, The money to be placed in the reserve fund to be used for revaluation. Carlton Robie moved to recommend the article, second Allyn Chivers. The committee voted to recommend yes 8, no 0

Article #18, The reconstruction of Patten Hill Road. Carlton Robie explained this was a 5 phase project this money is for phase 4. Todd Allen moved to recommend this article, second Allyn Chivers. The committee voted to recommend, yes 8, no 0

Article # 19, The operating money for the Smith Public Library. Allyn Chivers explained the library has had a level funded budget for the past 3 years. This money will level fund the library budget again. Todd Allen voted to recommend the article, second Melissa Madden. The committee voted to recommend, yes 7, abstain Allyn Chivers 1

Article #20, The winter road maintenance. No discussion. Carlton Robie moved to recommend the article, second Todd Allen. The committee voted to recommend, yes 8, no 0

Article #21, The special detail for the Police Dept. Todd Allen asked questions about this article. Carlton Robie explained the special detail and this is "in and out" money. This does not cost the town the money is refunded. Allyn Chivers moved to recommend this article, second Carlton Robie. The committee voted to recommend, yes 8, no

Article #22, money to update the Emergency Management plan. Carlton Robie explained we will receive matching funds from a grant to do this. Todd Allen moved to recommend this article, second Craig Sandler. The committee voted to recommend yes 8, no 0

Article #23, money to be added to the Fire Apparatus Reserve fund. Craig Sandler asked questions about the purpose of the money, what was the dept. going to use the money for? Carlton Robie explained the Fire Dept has plans for either a Forestry Truck or an ambulance. Carlton Robie moved to recommend this article, second Todd Allen. The committee voted to recommend yes 6, no 2

Article #24, money for the town Hazardous Waste Day. Todd Allen expressed that perhaps this money should be in the regular budget. Carlton Robie said that was a possibility and he would discuss it with the Select Board. Allyn Chivers recommended this article, second Carlton Robie. The committee voted to recommend, yes 8, no 0

Article #25, money for the Fitts Museum, no discussion. Allyn Chivers moved to recommend this article, second Carlton Robie. The committee voted to recommend, yes 8, no 0

At this time Todd Allen questioned the publishing of the numbers of votes by the selectmen regarding recommended and not recommended. Todd pointed out in the past those vote numbers were not published. Carlton Robie, Chairman Tierno, and Carla Penfield expressed that it was their opinion the state recommends the votes be stated in the warrant. Carlton Robie expressed that he is comfortable with the numbers being made public, that it ties in with the public's right to know.

Article #26, the playground maintenance fund, no discussion. Todd Allen moved to recommend this article, second Melissa Madden. The committee voted to recommend yes 8, no 0.

Article #27 & #28, there is no money in these articles, the committee is not required to address these articles

Article #29, the elderly tax exemption. Allyn Chivers asked questions. Allyn Chivers and Carla Penfield expressed that they thought the assets and income figures were high for people requesting property tax exemptions. Carlton Robie moved to recommend this article, second Carla Penfield. The committee voted to recommend yes 6, no 0.

Article #30, disable veterans exemption. This article was discussed. Carlton Robie answered questions. Allyn Chivers pointed out that not all disabled people get social security and this article negates the possibility of those people applying for this exemption. Carla Penfield moved not to recommend, second Allyn Chives. The committee voted not to recommend, yes 6, opposed 1, abstain 1.

Article #31, this article does not require money, the committee did not vote on this article.

Article #32, this article does not require money, the committee did not vote on this article

Article # 33, requested by citizen petition, money for the CYAA. Brief discussion. Moved not to recommend, second Craig Sandler. Chairman Tierno indicated that there should be a quid pro quo when a request such as this comes to the town. The committee voted not to recommend, yes 7, no 1

Carla Penfield asked questions of Carlton Robie concerning a substantial amount of money paid out by the Welfare officer at the beginning of Dec. Discussion commenced concerning how the welfare money was dispensed and how it is tracked. The Welfare officer has discretion to dispense money as she sees fit under the supervision of the Select Board. After the money is dispersed receipts are submitted to the Select Board. Allyn Chives requested an accounting of how the funds have been paid out this past year. Chairman Tierno requested of Carlton Robie a list of how this money has been spent

Chairman Tierno reminded the committee of the upcoming Town Public Hearing Jan. 18, 7:00 pm., at the school. There will be three positions available on the Budget Committee at the end of this term. Terms end for Chairman Tierno, Erin Asselin, and Carla Penfield

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Submitted by Carla Penfield, sec.