

Public Notice
Budget Committee
Milton, New Hampshire
Public Hearing

Milton School District proposed Budget 2015-2016

SAU #64 Proposed Budget

January 20, 2015

The Chairman of the Budget Committee opened the regular session meeting at 5:30pm

Roll Call: The Chair called the roll of the seating members Chairman Bruce Woodruff, Bob Carrier, Larry Brown, E.Ohlenbusch, Devon Pageau, A.Walsh (School Board Rep) A quorum was present.

Excused: J.Crone, Mike Beaulieu (Selectmen Rep.) **Absent:** (Water District Rep.)

The Chair cited the reason for this meeting is to discuss the 2 Warrant Articles to either recommend or not to recommend because of the way they are written and to see if the School Board were able to get legal advice to change the language in the 2 Articles. All the other Warrant Articles have been voted on.

Approval of Minutes: This was not on the agenda but I would like to get it approved.

I would like a motion to accept the January 12th 2015 minutes if there are no errors, omissions, corrections. A.Walsh: Page1 the second year they again move up another step. Strike out ~~and those steps usually at the bottom end of the scale.~~ On page 2 first line change ~~want~~ to won't.

Chairman Woodruff: page 6, 3rd paragraph. A.Walsh: Why don't we meet in the community room at 5:30pm.and move to the cafeteria at 6:00pm Change to A.Walsh: We will meet in the cafeteria at 5:30pm.

L.Brown: made the motion to accept the minutes with changes noted second by E.Ohlenbusch. All those in favor say I those oppose Motion passed (5-0-1).

Discussion on Warrant Articles 4 and 5:

A.Walsh: In the bottom line is that we revise the language the way we talked about it at the budget committee meeting and we sent it to DRA and have not heard back from them. We also sent it to our legal counsel and the legal counsel does not recommend that language at all, they said the warrant article are written this way for a reason.

Chairman Woodruff: Does anyone want to discuss this? The answer from the School District is that the articles that is before you article 4 and 5 the language that was before us the other night is the language their presenting to the Budget Committee. They are looking for a recommendation. The School District legal Counsel has given a legal opinion. I disagree with it I will vote not to recommend on both articles. It's not a big deal to tell you whether you are raising all that money or you're raising all that money from taxes. I never heard of this before, I feel like I we've been blindsided. I still have not been shown where the law has changed.

L.Brown: Is there history and precedence in past warrant articles, if there's not history or precedence for this warrant in past budgets how can you here and now fully expect to recommend it.

Mr.Tursi: The wording that's being presented to you hasn't changed it's the number in the article that has changed. The numbers that's been in the articles in the past did not include Federal Funds that we can anticipate every year, that have not been reported on the MS-27 which we discovered which we are making that change now, and it's the wording is the same the number now includes the \$294,500 in Federal Funds cause you're asking the voters to appropriate those monies and raise them through requesting the monies you apply for those grants.

Chairman Woodruff: What I'm arguing is to raise all that money \$294,500 and not tell the people were that comes from, just put it in that total number is not being genuine to the voters and it's not transparent.

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A.Walsh: I would argue the note on the bottom covers that it says the total operating budget will be offset by Federal Grant revenues \$294,500 and the School Board did just vote to add at the end of that sentence the money will not be raised by taxation.

Chairman Woodruff: If you can guarantee to me that this will be on the ballot.

Mr.Tursi and A.Walsh both agreed the wording the Federal Grant revenues \$294,500 will not be raised by taxation in the NOTE section that will be on the ballot.

Mr.Tursi: The MS-27 has to go along with the ballot

A.Walsh: We can change the wording in the NOTE. We can't do a lot with the wording in the article.

Chairman Woodruff: I still disagree with you, but for what you have done here means that I will vote to recommend this.

E.Ohlenbusch: Question you mentioned your still waiting to hear from DRA?

A.Walsh: we're waiting to hear back from the DRA on the wording that we talked about at the last Budget Committee meeting. We did send that to them to see if it would be ok, but they haven't responded back to us yet.

E.Ohlenbusch: As of tonight this is what it will be regardless of what they come back 2 days from now.

A.Walsh: This will be it. Legal counsel is pretty sure that would not pass DRA.

L.Brown: If there was a failure of due diligence it was a failure across the State there seems to be new a perspective given to you for that wording is that fair.

Second question what harm results to the voters as in every School budget an excess every year is refunded to the voters and the voters historically expect that under tax levy will come back for the next full year is that a fair statement.

Chairman Woodruff: To your 1st question I like good budgeting and that means the budget needs are met with a little extra that way we don't ask the tax revenue for the folks that live up there to go up too much even though they have this idea that any extra will come back to the Town will lower their rate.

The bottom line here though is that, what we looked at a budget earlier it was \$294,500 less. I have no problem showing that the total amount of money to be budgeted is the money we were shown and, oh by the way we're getting Federal and other grants in this amount, but it's not to be raised by taxes.

L.Brown: The last line from the explanatory note on the warrant is sufficient? The Chair: Yes

Next question no answer from DRA we all sign out three days later DRA says it has to be this way do we come back and revote?

Chairman Woodruff: They won't do that anyway

Mr.Tursi: The number that you see in the articles coincide with the budget form MS-27 that we have to submit so the numbers will jive and there hasn't been any alteration of the wording that is prescribe by law.

Chairman Woodruff: If there's no more discussion I would like a motion.

B.Carrier: The voters will look at that amount to be raised to be raised, where going to have a hard time to explain it to them even though I see the amount that we agreed on, where it says NOTE: below the warrant article.

E.Ohlenbusch: I agree with Bob when you read that warrant article what you see is that number that's what you're going to vote on. Is there any sort of explanation that would go out?

A.Walsh: there will be a note at the bottom of the article.

L.Brown: I recommend Article 4 with the proviso that the total operating budget of \$9,364,729 with \$294,500 to be offset by Federal grants that will not be raised by taxation. Second by E.Ohlenbusch

There were no more discussion the Chair called the question all those in favor to recommend as amended say I those oppose motion passed (6-0)

NOTE: The recommended Milton School Budget by the Budget Committee is \$9,070,229.

Chairman Woodruff: We have the same issue with article 5 it's a little bit more money, are you adding that same proviso to NOTE on article 5

A.Walsh: Yes

Chairman Woodruff: This is the SAU budget that's a little bit higher are there any questions?

L.Brown: Motion to recommend Article 5 with the same proviso as Article 4 Second by E.Ohlenbusch.

Discussion on the motion. Hearing none, all those in favor to recommend Article 5 as amended say I those oppose Motion passed (6-0).

Chairman ask for a motion to recess till after the public hearing

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L.Brown: made the motion to recess the BC meeting of Jan. 20th until after the public hearing .
second E.Ohlenbusch. All in favor say I those oppose motion passed (6-0) at 5:52pm

Public Hearing **2015 Milton School Budget and Warrant Articles and the SAU #64 Budget**

Budget Committee: Chair Bruce Woodruff, Bob Carrier, Larry Brown, Eric Ohlenbusch, Devon Pageau
Excused: Jennifer Crone, Mike Beaulieu (Selectman Rep) a quorum was present

The School Board Members: Chair Ann Walsh (School Board Rep. for the BC), Doug Shute, Brandy Banks, Paul Steer,
A quorum was present

SAU#64: Superintendent Micheal Tursi, Nathan Castle (Business Administrator), Anne Keebler Special Ed.Director)

In Attendance: Pricilla Colbath Wakefield, Joe O'Conner Wakefield, Jeff Berry resident Milton,
Jocelyn Young MES Vice-Principle, Bob Adams (Facilities) Arron Bronson (Principal)
Doug Kilmister (Principal), Beth Seldin (School Recording Secretary)

The Chairman of the Budget Committee opened the Public Hearing at 6:01pm

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive public input on the presentation of the 2015 Milton School Budget and Warrant Articles that have money appropriations and the SAU Budget Milton's portion of the budget)

We will read each money appropriation article in the School Warrants and after that we will take public comment. We ask you to state your name and address for the record.

The deliberative session for the School Budget will be held on Saturday January 31st 2015 at 1:00pm in the Nute Cafeteria.

The Chairman had the Board members from the BC and SB introduce themselves.

The Chair ask Mr.Tursi give an overview of the difference between last year's budget and this years.

Mr.Tursi: The major changes that you see in the warrant article this year compare to last year is on article 4 and article 5 This year in article 4 which is the Milton School District operating budget you will also see within that article a total of \$294,500 that are included in the operating budget the number \$294,500 is offset by Federal Funds. It doesn't have an impact on taxes and it's not raised through taxation.

The same thing with article 5 you will see specifically in the SAU apportionment in the budget we voted on what would be assigned to the budget to the Milton School District \$403,635. The total SAU budget is \$1.7 million that includes \$815,000 of revenue and those revenues offset the \$1.7 million which leaves a total budget for the SAU at \$929,392.

The major differences this year the offsetting revenues are included in the total amount written within the article and that is a substantial change from last year, all these numbers coincide with the MS-27 in the warrant articles.

Warrant Articles: The following is a brief description of the Warrant Articles.

Each member of the Budget Committee took turns reading the articles.

Article 2: This article is the Collective bargaining agreement reached between the Milton School Board and the Milton Education Association, Which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels estimated increase Year 2015-16 \$108,292 Year 2016-17 \$112,604
To raise and appropriate 108,292 for the 2015-2016 school year.

The school board recommends this appropriation (4-1)

The budget committee recommends this appropriation (5-0)

Public comments:

D.Shute: The teachers did not get a pay raise in this year's budget, next year they will get 2 pay raises not 1. What happens is normally that would be around 3% or a little bit more, by voting the 2015-16 they're going to get a pay raise in excess of 6% or more. The voters need to know that a lot of the board members did not agree with me, but I feel this is a retroactive pay raise.

A.Walsh: This is one of the things that Mr.Shute and I disagree on. I don't consider it a retroactive. This year teachers did not get a pay raise we have a salary scale year 1, year2, year3 etc. If we had a teacher last year who was in year one this year the teacher is still on year one, next year we are asking to put that teacher on year three where She/he should be.

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She/he is not going to get the money that they missed out this year. They're just being put on a correct step.

D.Shute: We as a board last year sent the contract back to the teachers, to work this contract out for this last year. The teacher's pay raise position they entered no, they lost their pay raise this year, and had nothing to do with the school board. Ann is correct I agree with her she's right among some of those certain individuals that everybody else will be affected not with one raise but two raise the majority of the people there's going to be an access of 6%.

A.Walsh: What D.Shute said is incorrect, we did not come to an agreement in time with the teachers last year not for a specific reason there were several things we haven't agreed to yet we just ran out of time and couldn't come to an agreement so they didn't have a contract this year.

The Chair ask if there any other public comment.

L.Brown: The N.H. Constitution says is that retrospective laws are punitive but retroactive contract is not necessarily the same retrospective law. Retrospective law punishes you for driving 40mph in a speed limit that is now gone down to 30mph a year later, but if you were driving at the legal speed at the time before you should not be penalize. I think that the difference between retro respective law and retroactive contract rights is a useful one. The contract employees in the State of N.H. have from my experience a generally even handed understanding limits of their contracts. I think the Milton teachers fit that definition.

Article 3: The budget committee did not make a recommendation because it's not a money appropriation article. It's a process article.

Article 4: This article is the operating budget for the Milton School District to vote to raise and appropriate \$9,364,729

The total operating budget will be offset by federal grant revenues \$294,500 leaving a net budget amount of \$9,070,229 (RSA32:5 III). NOTE: The amount of \$294,500 will not be raised by taxation.

Should this article be defeated the default budget shall be \$9,277,927.

NOTE: The default budget will be offset by federal revenue \$294,500 leaving a net amount of \$8,983,427.

The amount of \$294,500 will not be raised by Taxation.

A.Walsh: The school board had a quick meeting and we voted to change the wording in the NOTE to read the amount of \$294,500 will not be raised by taxation. This wording will also apply to the default budget.

The school board recommends this appropriation (3-1)

The budget committee recommends this appropriation (6-0)

The Chair ask if there were any public comment.

Article 5: This article is the SAU budget. To adopt the School Administrators Unit budget of \$1,744,392 for the forthcoming fiscal year in which \$403,635 are assigned to the Milton School District.

The adjusted budget of \$1,730,610 with \$397,649 assigned to the school budget of the Milton School District will be adopted if the article does not receive a majority vote of all the school district voters.

NOTE: The SAU Budget will be offset by revenues of \$815,000 not to be raised through taxation for this article, leaving a net budget amount of \$929,392 to be apportioned between Milton and Wakefield with \$403,635 assigned to Milton School District.(RSA 32:5 III).

NOTE: The total default Budget will be offset by revenues of \$815,000 not to be raised through taxation for this article leaving a net budget amount of \$915,610 to be apportioned between Wakefield and Milton School Districts \$397,649 assigned to the Milton School District.

The school board recommends this appropriation (3-1)

The budget committee recommends this appropriation (6-0)

The Chair ask if there were any public comment.

L.Brown: had to leave for a meeting with the Planning Board. At 6:15pm a quorum was still present

Article 6: This article is to see if the MSD will vote to raise and appropriate (\$16,900) for a civil site evaluation and structural roof analysis at Nute High School.

The school board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The budget committee recommends this appropriation (5-0)

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A.Walsh: Last year the school district had facility analysis done at Nute High School this warrant article stems from that and we've been talking about what we're going to do with Nute in the future are we going to renovate the old part of that building or are we going to put an addition in this part of the building, Part of the civil site evaluation will test the water runoff and look at all the water issues we have and look at the roof to see if whether the roof is structurally sound in the 1959 wing.

Public comments: none

Article 7: This is for a facility analysis at the Milton Elementary School. (\$27,000)

The school board recommends this appropriation (4-1)

The budget committee recommends this appropriation (4-1)

A.Walsh: The school board is recommending we do a facility analysis on MES much like the one we had done here at Nute, that building just celebrated its one hundred birthday we're trying to get a good idea of all our facility issues before we move forward with any long term projects.

Public comments: none

Article 8: This is to replace the MES library flooring. (\$9,400)

The school board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The budget committee recommends this appropriation (5-0)

B.Banks: The rug in the library needs to be replaced the rug is stretch out causing a tripping hazard and there's asbestos tiles that need to be removed.

Public comment: none

Article 9: This is for Phase II to replace and repair the multipurpose room and kitchen roof and shop roof at Nute High School. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation (RSA 32:7) and will not lapse until replacing the roof and shingles is finished or by June 30th 2017, whichever is earlier. (\$21,200)

The school board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The budget committee recommends this appropriation (5-0)

A.Walsh: This past summer we started Phase I roof project over at the Elementary School multipurpose room and kitchen room and at Nute at the shop room and this is just a continuation of that work this the second phase. Ann ask Mr. Adams does it have 3 phases or is it to the end of the project. Bob till the end of the project.

D.Shute: I've been told that this was going to be the end roof project and now I'm finding out it's not the end.

Chairman Woodruff: Doug are you looking for an answer.

D.Shute: No, I said at the last meeting that this is the end of the project and now I find out it's not, so the statement I made at the last meeting is wrong. (This is in reference to the January 12th budget committee meeting with the school board the statement made by D.Shute at that meeting did not get in the minutes due to secretary error.)

The Chair ask the committee as a whole if they want to take a revote on your recommendation motion on this article 9 in regard to roofs. The committee decided not to revote.

Jeff Berry: What happens if you don't complete the project by then?

A.Walsh: We have to complete the project by then or otherwise we can't spend any money more on it.

Chairman Woodruff: You can't spend any more money but the roofs don't have to be done by that drop dead date.

A.Walsh: To Jeff question usually you have to do it within a year this one gives you 2 years.

Any further comments, questions

Article 10: This is the Milton School District Building Repair, Renovation and Capital Project Reserve Fund of (\$50,000)
Authorize the use of that amount from the year end unreserved fund balance (surplus) available on July 1st, 2015

The school board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The budget committee recommends this appropriation (5-0)

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A.Walsh: If this warrant article is approved we have any money left over at the end of the year the first \$50,000 will go in the Capital Reserve Fund. The current balance \$5,000.

Public comments: None

Article 11: This article is the expendable trust fund for the education of educationally disabled children to be funded from the June 30, 2015 unreserved fund balance (surplus) available on July 1st, 2015 (\$25,000) to be placed in the expendable trust.

The school board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The budget committee recommends this appropriation (5-0)

A.Walsh: If at the end of the year we more than \$50,000 left in surplus the next \$25,000 would go to our expendable trust fund. I believe our balance is \$100,000.

D.Shute: I voted to take the money from the unreserved fund balance the voters need to realize that their not being taxed on last 3 articles it's coming from surplus at the end of the year. If we gave it back you could lower your tax rate by that much. All these articles we're asking for is a good idea.

Public comments, questions none

Article 12: This article is the expendable trust fund for the School Bus Trust Fund (\$15,000) to be placed in the expendable Trust Fund the amount to be funded from the June 30th, 2015 unreserved fund balance (surplus) available on July 1st, 2015.

The school board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The budget committee recommends this appropriation (5-0)

A.Walsh: This expendable trust we've had for years there's \$10,000 in it but the way that it's worded the only thing use it for is to buy some type of bus vehicle so our thought is to put \$15,000 so we could possibly buy our next special ED vehicle out of that fund.

Public comment, questions none

This the end of the money articles.

The Chair ask if there were any general comments. Hearing None.

Closed the Public Hearing at 6:34pm

The Chair ask for a motion to reconvene for the purposes of any business that needs come for the general purpose of returning to regular session.

A.Walsh made the motion second by **D.Pageau** motion passed.

The Chair asks if there were any unfinished business.

The deliberative session Saturday January 31st 2015 at 1:00pm at the Nute cafeteria.

Chairman Woodruff: The main reason for the budget committee to attend the deliberative session is to mainly sit here If someone makes a change to one of these warrant article the Statute gives us the right to retake a recommendation vote.

Adjourn: The Chair ask for a motion to adjourn **D.Pageau** made the motion second by **E.Ohlenbusch** motion passed
At 6:36pm

Submitted by Bob Carrier

Chairman_____