

Town of Milton
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
February 27, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Laura Turgeon (Chair), Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Peg Hurd, Kimberly Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills

Absent: Mike Beaulieu

Laura Turgeon, Chair, opened the session at 6:00PM.

1.) Pledge of Allegiance: Laura Turgeon, Chair, led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.) Roll Call:

a. Ms. Turgeon, Chair, led the roll call of members to determine if a quorum was present. Laura Turgeon (Chair), Bob Carrier, Peg Hurd, Renata Gamache, Kimberly Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills. A quorum was present.

3.) Discuss Town Expenditures:

Ms. Turgeon reported year-end reports are still being finalized. Chief Krauss hopes to have reports completed by end of the week.

4.) Discuss School Expenditures:

Ms. Hurd said there are no comments in the current report due to a potential problem with the Excel spreadsheet. Ms. Mills' report included two highlighted sections which showed expenses in specific line-items which did not have anything budgeted and over-expended line items. Ms. Mills said this does add up to ~\$33,000. Ms. Hurd provided explanation to some of the lines. Ms. Turgeon said this is a problem since money is being spent that is not budgeted for. Ms. Hurd recommended committee members read through the summary provided from Peter Curro. Mr. Curro is a consultant hired by the School Board to help address both staffing and reporting issues. His associate, Greg Colby, CPA, has been very focused on items such as payroll, grants, NH Retirement System, food service, and IRS. Ms. Turgeon said the findings indicated in the summary are very interesting. She does have concerns about the recommendation of a new position. Both Ms. Turgeon and Ms. Wischnewski have also met with the consultant and discussed many issues. Ms. Hurd said while Annette has had a learning curve due to not being properly trained or taught anything, she has greatly progressed over the past several months.

Ms. Turgeon said she continues to be concerned over continuing reporting errors. Some errors date back to July. The numbers are not correct and line-items do not match. Ms. Hurd said Mr. Colby is working and addressing all of this. Ms. Turgeon will request Adam Houghton to attend the next Budget Committee meeting. Ms. Hurd read through Mr. Houghton's letter and agreed things have been a mess and now Mr. Colby is working through this.

Mr. Carrier expressed continued concerns over the Grants report and said it appears there are

instances of double-entry. Ms. Turgeon asked if ESSR funds had been used for payroll? Ms. Hurd said yes; This had been allowed by the federal government. Ms. Turgeon said what happens when the funds run out? Ms. Hurd said some of the positions are grant-funded positions and paid through grants. Ms. Hurd said Mr. Colby is also focused on grants. Ms. Mills said it appears that several grants are overspent and asked if this is accurate or was the information was entered incorrectly? She said this could have major impacts if the information is incorrect. Ms. Mills said the auditors and Mr. Curro and Mr. Colby have all grant reports.

Mr. Carrier said it looks like there are issues and problems with the revenues report. Ms. Turgeon said Nate had previously made reports much more user friendly; now we just get poor reporting output. Ms. Hurd said Mr. Colby is working on all of this; Mr. Houghton and Ms. Hurd are encouraged and hope everything will get resolved. Ms. Turgeon said it does appear the school focuses more on the summary table vs. individual line-items. Ms. Hurd disagreed; Mr. Houghton is focused and looks at the entire budget. Ms. Turgeon said she and the Budget Committee have continued to voice their frustrations; she will request Mr. Houghton attend the next meeting so the Budget Committee can help him understand their concerns and frustrations. She does appreciate Mr. Houghton is very honest in his approach.

Ms. Burnham expressed an overall concern about trusting the reports. This has not gotten any better over the past three years. Now the School is asking for more money from taxpayers. We continue to not get answers or correct information. Ms. Hurd stressed they are working to get the books correct.

5.) Other business that may come before the board:

There was no other business.

6.) Review/Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Hurd motioned to approve the January 30, 2024, minutes with corrections. Ms. Mills seconded the motion.

Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Stephanie Mills voted Yes; Claudine Burnham Abstained. Motion Carried – 6/0/1

7.) Public Comments or Questions:

There was no public comment.

8.) Next Regular BC Meeting – March 26, 2024

9.) Adjournment:

- a. Ms. Burnham motioned to adjourn at 7:22PM; Seconded by Ms. Mills. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Winslow-Weiss, Recording Secretary – Budget Committee