

**Town of Milton
Public Hearing
Budget Committee Special Meeting
Milton Town Hall
Thursday January 12, 2017 6:00 P.M.**

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm and welcomed everyone.

Roll Call: Maureen Steer, Tom McDougall, Bob Carrier, Chairman Larry Brown, Lue Snyder (School Board Representative), Stan Nadeau (Water District Commissioner), Dennis Wing, Mike Beaulieu (Selectmen Representative), excused.

Quorum was present

Milton School Board: Chairman Doug Shute, Peg Hurd, Paul Steer,

SAU Members: Superintendent Earl Sussman, Business Administrator Nathan Castle.

Public In Attendance:

Bob Adams, Marianne Doane, Melissa Coffey, Ann Walsh

Other Buisness:

L. Brown mentioned some housekeeping details, he stated that on Thursday nights M. Beaulieu has other commitments and could not be at the meeting tonight. L. Brown stated that a few weeks ago the Budget Committee voted Caitlin Magargee off the Budget Committee with great appreciation for her time served. Larry mentioned that he had known why she had not attended any recent meetings but at the time he could not say so due to confidentiality. He is now stating that her absence was not due to her not fulfilling her obligations but was because her husband was being considered for a new job in another state. He just wanted to be sure the record was cleared on her service.

Town Report:

There is no town report to present.

Approval of Minutes:

S. Nadeau motioned to approve the January 3, 2017 Special minutes with possible needed corrections, Seconded by M. Steer.

Discussion:

No needed corrections

All in favor, Dennis Wing Abstained, Motion Carried 6-1

Review and vote on the proposed 2017-2018 School Budget and Warrant Articles.

B. Carrier asked if there was a good time to meet with E. Sussman and N. Castle to go over the grants to try and understand what they are and whom is on them. E. Sussman and N. Castle stated they can fit it in next week. E. Sussman invited B. Carrier to the Grant committee next week to maybe help better understand. N. Castle stated that either before or after he would be glad to meet with B. Carrier to review them. L. Brown asked E. Sussman to briefly explain the focus of the grant committee which as he understands it has been looking across the board at those third party funds and making sure we get access to any funds out there. E. Sussman briefly explained a little about the committee.

Budget Committee review of warrant articles and recommendations:

L. Brown stated that when they met last time S. Nadeau had an excellent question about the cost of the teachers' contract as it affects this year and next year for where the money cuts in and what the states reimbursements are. The School Board went back and reworked the Article #2 Warrant to bring to the Budget Committees attention tonight as a complete new figure voted on by the School Board.

- **Article 2:**

Article reads:

"Shall the Milton School District vote to approve the cost items included in 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 over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year: and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Six Thousand one hundred eight-four dollars and ninety four cents, (\$66,184.94) for the 2017-2018 school year, such sum representing the additional costs attributed to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal school year." The school board recommended this article 5-0.

Discussion:

S. Nadeau stated that these numbers have been reduced significantly since the last time they met. L. Snyder stated that it was reduced about \$100,000. L. Snyder stated that she would like to thank D. Shute and P. Hurd for all their hard work on reducing this budget even more, she thanked N. Castle and E. Sussman as well for all the hard work. S. Nadeau stated that he would like to hit on some of the points they have in red. He stated when people here a contract they don't realize there is a give and take to it, they are seeing the increase monetarily, but people need to see what the give on the teachers part was. T. McDougall stated that when he went through the school boards back up, he stated that they have a request for \$66,184 but then the total increase for teachers is \$67,353, is the total request there talking about the year 2017 and 2018. P. Hurd stated that if you take the total request of \$66,184 subtract the \$11,500, \$5,000 and the \$215 and then add \$18,028 it will come out to the \$67,353 so the savings outweighed the actual costs. T. McDougall was still not sure of what the numbers mean, P. Hurd stated that if you take the retirement, FICA, and the Disability subtract that from the \$66,184, then add back in the \$18,028 which is the savings and that is how you come up with the \$67,353. S. Nadeau stated that per the School Boards break down the teachers' contract represents a \$.19 increase per thousand to the tax payer.

Motion:

L. Snyder motioned to recommend Article #2, seconded by M. Steer

Roll call: S. Nadeau (Yes), D. Wing (Yes), B. Carrier (Yes), L. Synder (Yes), M. Steer (Yes), T. McDougall (Yes), L. Brown (Yes). Motion carried 7-0.

L. Brown opened the Public Hearings at 6:30pm.

L. Brown read the Public Posting

“To the inhabitants of the School District and the Town of Milton N.H. Qualified to vote in district affairs you are hereby notified of the following annual School District meeting schedule.

First session of annual meeting Deliberative you are hear by notified to meet at the Nute High school and Library cafeteria in said district on Saturday the 4th of February 2017 at 1pm with a snow date of Sunday the 5th day of February 2017 at 1pm. This session shall consist of explanation, discussion and debate of warrant articles #2 thru 9. Warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations,

- A. Warrant articles who’s wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended.
- B. Warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on main and motion as amended.
- C. No warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article.

Second session of the annual meeting. Official ballot voting. You are hereby notified to meet at the assembly of God Church in Milton N.H. on Tuesday March 14, 2017 between the hours of 8am and 7pm to vote by official ballot on warrant articles #1 thru 9.”

L. Brown read each article and held discussion for the public after each article.

- **Article #1**

Public Comments: None

School Board Comments: None

Budget Committee Comments: None

- **Article #2**

School Board recommends this article 4-0

Budget Committee recommends this article 7-0

Public Comments: None

School Board Comments: None

Budget Committee Comments: None

- **Article #3**

School Board recommends this article 4-0

Budget Committee recommends this article – No recommendation required

Public Comments: None

School Board Comments: None

- **Article #4**

School Board recommends this article 4-0

Budget Committee recommends this article 7-0

Public Comments: None

School Board Comments: D. Shute stated that the reason there is only 4 votes from the school board on all of these articles is because one of the school board members was sick the night they voted on the articles. D. Shute stated to let the people know that this budget is \$154,014.81 over last year's budget which is a 1.5% increase.

Budget Committee Comments: L. Brown stated that there is a 5 board member school board, and when the Budget committee is at full capacity there are 9 members. L. Brown also stated that elections will be coming up and if anyone is interested to check with Town clerk. S. Nadeau stated that it should be noted why the RSA was stated in the article, it is because the budget now is to include grant money, in the past it was not included, this is the reason for the RSA being stated in the article. E. Sussman stated that a discussion on the operating budget and the default budget would be a good discussion. He stated that the default budget is overly above the operating budget. N. Castle stated that in comparing the default budget with the operating budget this fiscal year is over 3.1% over the current year, the estimated tax increase on top of the \$.54 on the tax impact sheet that the board has is an additional \$.47 per \$1,000. S. Nadeau stated that for simple math, the default budget is \$168,305.81 above the proposed budget. S. Nadeau stated that the school should go in with the town to create an informational flyer to educate the tax payers on these warrant articles. P. Steer stated that the school board voted to do that; they will also be creating an informational flyer for the tax payers. D. Wing stated, just to be clear on the \$.47 increase, the operating budget had a \$.54 increase but with the default it would be \$.47 plus the \$.54. N. Castle stated yes.

- **Article #5**

School Board recommends this article 4-0

Budget Committee recommends this article 7-0

Public Comments: None

School Board Comments: None

Budget Committee Comments: None

- **Article #6**

School Board recommends this article 4-0

Budget Committee recommends this article 7-0

Public Comments: None

School Board Comments: D. Shute stated right now presently there is \$99,301.75 that is what is in the trust fund, there are several things that still need to come out and when those things come out we will be down to \$42,761.75. L. Brown asked if there were any other expenditure that will be coming out; P. Steer stated he did not know at the time anything could happen. B. Adams stated that the money for the Damon house is the phase one piece, phase two ends up being the phone systems, flooring, etc. there are other items that will need to be done. Those are expenditures that they have not quantified yet. They also have phase two of the Milton Elementary School that is scheduled for next summer. S. Nadeau asked if that was in the CIP plan, B. Adams said yes, S. Nadeau stated then that roof would not come out of the fund as that gets funded differently. B. Adams stated that it is an option because it would fall under regular repair. B. Carrier stated that this fund was at \$25,000 per year and he sees that it has been raised to \$50,000 per year is that to replenish that renovation. L. Snyder stated that it has been

at \$50,000 per year and for some reason that she does not know last year they lowered it to \$25,000. L. Brown stated that in this article when it says renovations it is important to know that this is the first years' operating budget where the district is assuming the entire costs of operating its district and administrative structure and housing and so the renovations are being done in house literally for the Damon house, this will bring the district a lower cost than the continued percentage of our obligation to the exit 17 commerce center. P. Steer stated that they will no longer be paying rent as they now have the Damon house free and clear
Budget Committee Comments:

- **Article #7**

School Board recommends this article 4-0

Budget Committee recommends this article 7-0

Public Comments: None

School Board Comments: L. Snyder stated that last year there was a warrant article for computers and in her opinion it was a bad thing for the school district and the tax payers. She stated that they have been working really hard at on finding a better way to redo the computers; they have gotten some grants which will take care of some of it not all. She stated they need a sustainable way to keep up with the computers, and add some new ones. They came up with adding \$25,000 a year out of the surplus which will not go back to offset taxes, and this will be a lot cheaper for the tax payers.

Budget Committee Comments: None

- **Article #8**

School Board recommends this article 4-0

Budget Committee recommends this article 7-0

Public Comments: None

School Board Comments: D. Shute stated that they are going to need some new equipment, new copier, new computers, and new computer monitors. S. Nadeau asked if there was any estimation of what that fund balance is going to be. E. Sussman stated that as the board knows the Milton school district gets 47% and Wakefield gets 53% of the items. E. Sussman feels optimistic that they are looking at about \$80,000, purely estimation for the towns half. S. Nadeau stated that after they buy the pieces they think they are going to need what will happen with the reminder of the fund balance; E. Sussman stated that it goes back to the tax payer.

Budget Committee Comments:

- **Article #9**

School Board recommends this article 4-0

Budget Committee recommends this article – No Recommendation Needed

Public Comments: None

School Board Comments: None

Budget Committee Comments: None

B. Carrier motioned to send the warrant articles as written with a correction from the school district to line 2 article #3 at its option to the February 4, 2017 deliberative session; Seconded by S. Nadeau, all in favor, motion carried 7-0.

Next Meeting:

January 17, 2016 at Milton Town Hall at 5:30pm for the Budget Committee to review the town warrants and make recommendations, 6:00pm for the public hearings on the complete operating budget, default budget and warrant articles for the town.

Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn made by S. Nadeau seconded by L. Snyder 7:30 pm. All in favor. Motion stands. 7-0

Respectfully Submitted by:

Brenda Pabon – Recording Clerk

Date Approved: 1/17/2017 BLP