

**Town of Milton
Budget Committee Special Meeting
School Board Presentations
Nute High School
Tuesday January 3, 2017 6:30 P.M.**

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 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), Mike Beaulieu (Selectmen Representative), Denis Wing excused.
Quorum was present

Milton School Board: Chairman Doug Shute, Peg Hurd, Stephanie Berry, Superintendent Earl Sussman, Business Administrator Nathan Castle.

Review the Milton 2017-2018 School Warrant Articles/CIP and to make recommendations.

Doug Shute stated that the School Board voted to approve all warrant articles, 4-0.

Budget Committee review of each warrant article and recommendations:

- **Article 1:**
Non-Money article
- **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 one hundred sixty-four thousand, two hundred fifty-five dollars and eighteen cents (\$164,255.18) 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."
Discussion:
S. Nadeau stated that he has not seen the proposed agreement; he also stated that he is having a hard time saying Ya or Na.
L. Brown asked P. Hurd if she had back-up documentation for the board to look at and see how the steps break down and what the percentage increase is. P. Hurd stated she only had one copy of the final contract but would go through it with them. There is a \$500 dollar increase for both years and a step increase for both years. P. Hurd stated an example; anyone on the top step (14) it would represent about a 1% increase because they are only getting the \$500 dollars, anyone

below step 14, they would get the \$500 and the step which represents about a 4% increase. They have not had an increase for the last two years. M. Beaulieu asked what that was in a dollar amount. L. Brown asked if there was a COLA increase and what the percentage was on that. P. Hurd stated that they went with a dollar amount not a percentage and that was the \$500. L. Brown asked what the percentage of \$500 dollars was to a typical salary, example; he is earning \$1,000, he gets a \$500 increase that is a 50% increase, he earns 10,000, he gets a \$500 increase that is 5% increase. So everyone gets \$500 regardless of their grade, P. Hurd stated correct. L. Brown asked if that was a one-time payment or is it added to the steps, P. Hurd stated that it was added to each of the steps. L. Brown stated that if he was making \$100 on his step last year, this year he would be earning \$105 that is a 5% increase, P. Hurd stated correct. L. Brown asked M. Beaulieu if that answered his question, M. Beaulieu stated he thinks so. L. Brown stated that the total cost of \$164,255.18 is divided among how many teachers? P. Hurd stated 62, L. Brown asked S. Nadeau to divide the total cost by the 62 teachers. S. Nadeau asked how many hours does the average teacher work? P. Hurd stated 185 days times 7.5 hours a day, S. Nadeau stated that comes to 1387.5 hours per year, now divide that by the \$500 and that comes to about \$.36 per hour raise per person. S. Nadeau stated does that come to \$165,255.18? S. Berry stated that you also have to add the step in as well; the step is where the majority of the money is coming from. She stated that the staff (Good Staff) has not had an increase in two years, and with this increase they are getting \$225.00 extra a month and out of that increase they now have to pay an additional 5% on their insurance, she felt that was important to bring up as well. S. Nadeau feels that if the tax payers see that number, they may have a problem with it. S. Berry said that she agrees with S. Nadeau, but also stated that it is hard to communicate this information to the taxpayers, like the fact that the teachers in Milton are one of the lowest paid in the area, she understands that everyone is frustrated about taxes, but the likely hood is that people expect to get paid for doing a good job, and they are going to continue to leave. She stated that if you worked in a company that paying you \$10 an hour and you could do the very same job at the next company that is paying you \$20, where do you think the good worker is going to go? To the other company that is paying more. She feels that it needs to be communicated all the savings verses the spending. S. Nadeau suggests that come deliberative session they should have all that information in black and white for the people, they really need to educate the people or they are not going to get the votes. He stated that history has shown that a number like \$164,255 will not make it. Superintendent Sussmen also discussed the importance of keeping the teachers here. L. Brown, if you have a 6% raise this year, last year it would have been 4% and the year before that would have been 2%, so you are actually talking about a 2% raise carried over the term of the contract, those are not real percentages they are just used to make a point. He also stated that as Mr. Sussman said, off the \$164,255, they have recovered how much in terms of the additional contribution into the cost of insurance and the step plan so that new teachers can be brought along and the high end costs are reduced. L. Snyder stated that there is one teacher's salary that is in that \$164,255 still and that will be reduced once that comes out. S. Nadeau stated since they know there is going to be a reduction of one teacher's salary; he thinks it is a good idea for the School Board to take a vote on the new amount with the teacher salary taken out. L. Brown asked N. Castle if he could produce the new number with the teacher salary removed, N. Castle stated he could. Superintendent Sussmen stated that it would go down more without retirement but they would

not have the number now, S. Nadeau stated that the number could be changed again at the deliberative session so they should have the new number by then. He has a hard time voting to accept this \$164,255 right now knowing it can be reduced. The new number is \$117,182.24. D. Shute stated that he would like to check the figure out before the school board votes on this. Much more discussion was had on the fact that there needs to be some kind of communication to the tax payers about this increase. S. Nadeau stated that it would be a good idea to have some sort of a cheat sheet to hand out to the tax payers educating them on as much information as possible to help them make a decision. This recommendation is being delayed at this time.

- **Article #3**

Non-Money Article

- **Article #4**

Article reads:

“Shall the Milton School District vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of seven thousand, five hundred seventy-three dollars and fifteen cents (\$10,397,573.15)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be ten million, five hundred sixty-five thousand, eight hundred seventy-eight dollars and ninety-six cents (\$10,565,878.96), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Milton School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget?”

Discussion”

Stan Nadeau stated that this amount was the same exact amount as what they already voted on in a meeting previously.

Motion:

S. Nadeau motioned to recommend Article #4, seconded by M. Steer

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

- **Article #5**

Article Reads:

“Shall the Milton School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to purchase library media for the Nute High School and Library?”

This is a special warrant article appropriation.

Motion: S. Nadeau motioned to recommend Article #5, seconded by M. Steer

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

- **Article #6**

Article reads:

“Shall the Milton School District vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of Fifty Thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Milton School District Building Maintenance Repair, Renovation and Capital Project Reserve Fund established in 2005 for the purpose of repairing and maintaining school buildings, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2017 unreserved fund balance (surplus) available on July 1, 2017?”

Discussion:

S. Nadeau asked if they had the number of what is left in that account as of now, N. Castle stated that it is at \$98,997. L. Snyder stated there is a bill coming for about \$40,000 that will come out of that \$98,997 and they will need to put walls up and floors in the Damon house to create offices and. T. McDougall stated that he would assume that the way these articles are numbered, that they are in priority order?

Motion: M. Steer motioned to recommend Article #6, seconded by L. Snyder

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

- **Article #7**

Article reads:

“Shall the Milton School District vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) to be placed in the Milton School District Technology Expendable Trust Fund established in 2007, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2017 unreserved fund balance (Surplus) available on July 1, 2017?”

Discussion:

L. Snyder stated this is for purchasing equipment for technology in the future when needed, by putting this money away a little at a time it will not hurt the tax payers when the time comes to purchase them. This article is establishing the equivalent of a CIP. S. Berry stated that the Sig grant will only fund computers for the High school it will not fund the Elementary school, and it can only be used in the Middle school as long as the high school is using it as well. The computers that are needed are desk top computers that are in the computer lab. It has been 5 to 6 years since they have been replaced.

Motion: S. Nadeau motioned to recommend Article #7, seconded by T. McDougall

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

- **Article #8**

Article reads:

“Shall the Milton School District vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to purchase new equipment for the Milton administrative office’s with the sum to come from Milton’s share of the unencumbered fund balance available after the separation of Wakefield from the SAU #64?: This is a special warrant article.

(Majority vote requires).

Discussion:

S. Nadeau asked, what is the amount of money that they estimate will be coming back. There is \$235,000. Whatever Wakefield takes they will have to give Milton School District 43% of that value so that amount is going to change. S. Nadeau stated that there is still roughly \$100,000

left in there so where is the other \$75,000 going to go, L. Snyder stated it will go back to the tax payers. T. McDougall asked if the \$25,000 sufficient to equip the Damon House, and is it more than you expect to needed or is it less than you expect to need? Superintendent Sussman stated that is was more than they expect to need.

Motion: L. Snyder motioned to recommend Article #7, seconded by T. McDougall

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

- **Article #9**
Non-Money article

Town Report:

Nothing to report

School Report:

Nothing more to report

Public Comments:

None

Members Comments:

None

Approval of minutes: December 20, 2016

S. Nadeau Motioned to accept the minutes with corrections, Seconded by M. Steer,
Corrections: Page 1 WEK is spelled wrong in two places should be spelled WEX. Page 2 last paragraph HEPPA should be spelled HIPPA. Last page middle of the page Denis should be spelled Dennis.
All in favor, motion carried 7-0.

Any other business that may come before the Board:

None

Next Meeting:

January 12, 2016 at Milton Town Hall at 6:00pm for the Budget Committee, 6:30pm for the public hearings on the complete operating budget, default budget and warrant articles.

Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn made by S. Nadeau seconded by M. Steer 8:00 pm. All in favor. Motion stands. 7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted by:

Brenda Pabon – Recording Clerk

Date Approved: 1/12/2017 BLP _____