

November 24th. Budget Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order @7:05 by chairman Chris Hyde.

All members were present, plus selectmans representative Peter band, and finance director Paul Calabria. Troy Brown town administrator was also present to provide information on the selectmans proposed budget.

Paul presented data on the existing budget and revenue as of October 31st. There were several questions regarding current land use revenue and administrative revenues.

Peter made comments as to how hard the department heads had worked to maintain a flat budget as this was the 2nd. Year in a row they had been asked to so.

School report

Bill brought us up to date on the progress on the mold problem @ the upper elementary. They are expecting the report on what caused the problem soon.

All sheetrock and ceiling tiles have been removed and all surfaces have wiped clean. To date \$187,000 has been spent

At the present time it doesn 't look as though insurance will cover these expenditures.

Other problems at the school that need attention are : the lack of adequate electrical and computer outlets to meet current requirements.

Replacement of two boilers that are at less than 40% efficient

Lighting fixtures in the gymnasium are older type mercury fixtures that will be evaluated to see if there would be a cost benefit to change them.

Heating and air handling needs updating as there many cold areas next to outside walls.

Hutter construction has been hired as project mgr. to determine the estimates for repairs.

Estimates for upgrading the above mentioned systems will also be included. It may be necessary to consider a bond issue to cover these cost.

The new business administrator will report on Dec.1st.

THE s.a.u..board is discussing the possibility of adding staff to free up the superintendent of some duties to allow her more time to spend on curriculum

A question was asked why expendable trust funds couldn'T be used for some of the repairs? These funds are already designated for other projects, such as repairs to the roof at the primary school.

Town budget from selectman:

Jim Belanger expressed a concern about expendable trust. HE feels that the people have lost control of these funds as they have no further say so as to how the money is spent. Bob Labednick thinks people are being removed from the process, and would like to know how the money is being spent. Paul said that the auditors audit the accounts to be sure that the proper process is being followed. Bill said that the school holds a public hearing before any funds are spent.

Troy compared the bud. com. guidance request to the selectmans proposed budget. The report shows a difference of \$40,831.00 more than budget guidance. Benefits have increased \$136,000.00.

Benefits are currently the same for union members, as they are entitled to wages and benefits of the expired contract until a new agreement is reached. Some discussion followed regarding non union benefits and it was agreed that they should be maintained equal to union members.

The s.u.v. in the police dept. will be replaced, and the current vehicle will be assigned to the building inspector.

Planning dept. will be billing for the planners time to review plans and will reduce cost for that dept.

Peter and Troy explained the warrant articles, but emphasized that these were first drafts and would be changed.

Discussion of the process to be followed once the fact finders report is in, and what the next step would be. . Troy will follow up on this

Mike made a motion to approve the corrected minutes of Sept. 22nd, seconded by Peter. The motion carried.

Mike moved to approve the minutes of Oct. 27th, seconded by Frank. Motion carried.

Moved to adjourn by Mike , seconded by Frank .

Meeting adjourned @ 915.

Tom Jambard