

Regular Meeting of the
Candia Budget Committee
December 10th, 2014
Moore School Library, Candia, NH
Minutes of the Public Session

Present: Chairman Matthew Broadhead, Vice-Chair Allyn Chivers, Rebecca Cronk, Paul Leblond, Mark Laliberte, Kevin Coughlin, Andrea Peach, Selectman's Rep. Carleton Robie, School Board Rep. Emily Roster, Alt School Board Rep. Kim Royer, Nash Reddy, Karen Lessard, Karyn Yateman, Principal Robert St. Cyr, Vice- Principal Michelle Lavallee, Nicole Laflamme, Deb Leblond, Superintendent Charles (Phil) Littlefield, Asst. Superintendent Marge Polak.

Excused: Rebecca Cronk

Call to Order

Chairman Matthew Broadhead called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

New Business:

What are the effects of Hooksett's current high school situation with Manchester?

Karen Lessard discussed how the SAU15 bill comes in for the three schools and how it is broken down. The two town agreements equal the amount due to Manchester for capital costs leaving a zero balance for Candia this year. It depends on the building aid number. Vice- Chair Chivers asked about the lawsuit with Hooksett regarding the capital costs. Karen Lessard discussed that there was not a lawsuit. Superintendent Littlefield discussed that there are two mediated settlements- one with Hooksett and the other with Auburn. There is a four year agreement. Hooksett agreed to pay and enhanced tuition and \$791,000 in capital costs. Auburn agreed to pay a fixed amount of capital costs of \$300,000. Superintendent Littlefield believes Candia is in a good position. Vice Chair Chiver's discussed that is concerned what could happen down the road. Superintendent Littlefield discussed that the original agreement states that the remaining communities will not be responsible for capital costs of other communities.

What is the difference between the Nurse Substitute Salary and Nurse Professional Services?

Emily Roster read the question regarding the difference between the two nursing lines. Karen Lessard explained that one line is used when the Nurse absences are filled with employees and the other line Nurse Professional Services is used when they need to contract with an outside company to fill.

Can the Heating Oil line be decreased to reflect current market rates?

Emily Roster read the question regarding reducing the heating oil line because of the current low rates. Karen Lessard discussed how they are forecasting for next year and do so by listening to professional forecasts and literature which do not feel that the current pricing that we are seeing is sustainable. It was asked if there were any specific experts used. Superintendent Littlefield began a discussion about how there are many things that affect oil prices and it is risky to reduce the line. It does not appear to be a supply and demand issue.

What is the total dollar amount increase for health insurance?

Emily Roster read the question regarding the total cost of health insurance. Karen Lessard answered that the health insurance increased by \$12,800 and the dental insurance decreased by \$1,200. It is budgeted with current actual employees that are on the insurance. Carleton Robie asked for a clarification on the health insurance increase because the budget is a 13.5% increase. Karen Lessard mentioned that the budget is based off current actual taking into account some people that may have added members and some that may have decreased members on their plans.

Chairman Matthew Broadhead asked if there was any more questions from the committee.

Vice-Chair Chivers asked if there are any warrant articles that may be coming up because the Budget Committee is going to be reviewing and voting on the entire town budget.

Superintendent Littlefield said that the School Board is in the same mindset as the Budget Committee. The Special Education Trust Fund was discussed and that the School Board would have a warrant article for \$30,000. Chairman Broadhead asked to explain to new members what the Special Education Trust Fund is. Karen Lessard asked that the fund is used when someone moves into town during the year and needs services that were not previously budgeted. Vice-Chair Chivers asked what the balance of the Trust Fund is currently. Karen Lessard answered with \$143,000. Emily Roster stated that the goal is to get it back up to \$200,000.

Chairman Broadhead asked how the committee would feel about moving forward and voting on the budget tonight and cancel tomorrow night's meeting. There were no objections.

Chairman Broadhead discussed moving forward to close the public session and made a motion to close the public session. Mark Laliberte second the motion. All in favor- Motion Passed.

Chairman Broadhead noted that Rebecca is absent and it is excused. It was also noted that there has been a change to next Wednesday December 17th meeting. It will be held at the Town Library meeting room.

Chairman Broadhead asked to proceed with budget and asked if there were any proposed changes and reviewed each page 1- 13.

Kevin Coughlin asked about the surplus of \$500,000 from last year and what happens to it. Karen Lessard answered that \$138,000 was reserved for projects that were encumbered, \$30,000 went to the Special Education Trust Fund, \$174,000 was set aside for Capital Costs from Manchester. There was \$165,000 plus additional revenue for a total of \$211,426 that was given back to the town and used to offset the school rate on the tax bills in October.

Carleton Robie discussed that the unreserved fund balance can be used for school reasons and Karen Lessard disagreed. Chairman Broadhead said it was a good point and that they would need to review.

Vice- Chair Chivers asked if the capital costs are in the budget and if they could be separated from the tuition line. She said that it was discussed prior about separating it. Karen Lessard discussed that the legal department believes it belongs in the tuition line.

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Chivers to recommend the School Budget as proposed by the School Board for \$7,695,151.23. Mark Laliberte second the motion. All in favor- Motion Passed.

Meeting for Thursday December 11th, 2014 was cancelled.

Next meeting scheduled for December, 17th 2014 at the Town Library.

Lacking further business, Chairman Broadhead entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion: To adjourn. Motion by Carleton Robie, second by Paul Leblond. All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Recorded by Geri Holmes