

APPROVED DECEMBER 8, 2010

Chairman Charles Kimball called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM. Budget Committee members present were Charles Kimball, Mike Nygren, Andy Kohlhofer, Laurie Allore, Pat Martel, Joyce-Booker Janvrin, Selectmen Greta St. Germain, School Board member Ida Keane, and Recording Secretary Jeanne Nygren.

A motion was made by Keane to accept the minutes of the November 17, 2010 meeting as amended. This was seconded by Kohlhofer. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

Keane handed out a report to the Committee with the fund balance that was \$471,000 showing what it was made up of and also a current trending report for the rest of this year school spending.

The following were questions that Kohlhofer wanted addressed by the School Board.

1. He wants to know in the IDEA grants in pre K for the identified students with IEPs, what is the average tuition cost and what percent does the IDEA grant cover?
2. Also while looking at last year's budget for elementary grades K through 8, the special education grant covered only about 30%, and he wants to know what is the average annual cost per student, and how much the IDEA grant is for these students in next year budget.

Keane said there is a lottery that for those who don't have any IEPs or special needs and those they tuition paying into pre K. There then was a discussion on how low the tuition for these students is.

Kohlhofer commented also on the benefits. He wants to know if on every grant funded position are they are required to keep that position after the grant runs out? Keane said that on the social worker they just hired, they have it in writing they don't have to keep this position after the third year. How many students receive services from the psychologist and the social worker? Kohlhofer also asked when a guidance counselor does administrative duties and are they fully covered under the contract?

St. Germain asked if having two principals was ever addressed and discussion to have only one principal and the guidance counselors filling in. Kimball asked what is the staff numbers verses the number of students. Keane said this ratio is 6:1 but this figure also includes secretaries and maintenance as part of the staff.

Martel asked regarding the social workers position, if we ever had one and how many students are there? Keane said they had a coordinator years ago, that position was eliminated and right now there are 5 students requiring a social worker.

Kohlhofer said he would not vote for any contract that has an Evergreen Clause as it is not required by State law and after discussion it was clear that most of the Committee would go along with Kohlhofer's opinion.

St. Germain asked when would the additional revenue (\$484,000.00) from the State be received and Keane said they would not get anymore than what was received in the previous year.

The Town trending report was handed out to the Committee members and the rationale will sent out to the members by Carlson tomorrow.

A suggestion was made to just cut each line item by 10% would bring their budget to a more realistic figure seeing that the Town's budget has been cutting.

Martel asked for the default budget and Keane said it wasn't ready yet and she will get a copy for the next meeting. Martel asked on salary contractual vs non contractual 3% increase on page 45 and for the explanation on this.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Keane. The vote was unanimous 8-0. The meeting ended at 9:25 PM.

The next Budget Committee meeting will be December 8, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Nygren
Recording Secretary