

The Board of Selectmen held a special meeting with members of the Board of Education and Board of Finance on October 23, 2012 at the Notch Road Municipal Center with First Selectman Robert Morra presiding. Also in attendance were: Selectmen Robert Neil, Robert Lessard, Leslie Shea and Ray Walker; Board of Education members Karen Bergin, John Hambrook, Matt Guiffre, Rich Hayes, Trace Malucci, Joe Muro and Ron Rousseau; Board of Finance members Robert Munroe, John Toomey, Judy Wilson, and Jim Bruner; Superintendent Joseph Wood; Finance Department staff Jerry McCall and Brenda Douglas; and Administrative Officer Joyce Stille.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Morra called the meeting to order at 7:00P.M.

2. DISCUSSION ON BUDGET AND RELATED ITEMS FOR CURRENT YEAR, NEXT YEAR AND SUBSEQUENT YEAR

A. Revenues

B. Expenditures

C. Capital Improvements/School Project/Master Planning of Fields and Recreational Facilities

D. Savings Opportunities/Shared Services

Mr. McCall discussed the status of revenues from last fiscal year, current fiscal year and next fiscal year. The loss of one time revenues and possible decline of other revenues has the potential to make next fiscal year challenging. In future years, the impacts of the sewer project and revaluation are still to be determined. Growth in the grand list remains limited. Ms. Stille reported on the possibility of a tax sale ranging approximately from \$7,000 to \$75,000 in back taxes, interest and fees. Mr. Morra shared current year budget shortfalls due to unexpected costs for Bolton Lake issues for \$30,000 to \$50,000 and the recreation/field planning for \$20,000 to \$30,000. Next year, items having fiscal impact include revaluation, field work, new financial software system and Bolton Lake. For the high school project, the punch list items are being addressed and the LEED certification is being finalized. Concern was expressed about possible actions by the Planning and Zoning Commission which could impact residential expansion around Bolton Lake after the sewers are installed. In addition, Mr. Hayes discussed expanding the capital planning to a 15 to 20 year time period. The CAPA Committee will discuss this as an extension of the 5 year capital plan. The group also discussed the field/recreational planning and its tie to shared services.

3. DISCUSSION ON INSURANCE

Ms. Stille reported that the Town of Columbia's administration will conclude its discussions on the two (2) insurance options after the November 6th elections.

4. DISCUSSION ON SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND ORDINANCE

Ms. Bergin asked that the ordinance that splits tuition from Columbia students to 80% to the school project cost (debt) and 20% to the general fund be revised to increase funding for the general fund due to the increased number of Columbia students attending the high school. It was discussed that changing the percentage is contrary to the commitments made as part of the bonding process as well as to the taxpayers when the project was passed at referendum. It was also discussed how the funds available in the end would be the same even if a change was made since more debt would need to be funded in the budget. The peak number of student enrollment and its impact was discussed by the group as well.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 8:57P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce M. Stille
Administrative Office

Please see subsequent minutes for the approval or correction to these minutes.