

The Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on October 26, 2010 at the Board of Education Conference Room with First Selectman Robert Morra presiding. Also in attendance were: Selectmen Raymond Walker, Leslie Shea, Robert Lessard and Robert Neil; Board of Finance members Bob Munroe, Jim Bruner, Joseph Fleming, Jim Roscoe and John Toomey; Board of Education members Karen Bergin, Paula Meyers, Karen Alibrio, Matthew Giuffre, John Hambrook and Joe Muro; Superintendent Paul Smith; Administrative Officer Joyce Stille; Finance Director Jerry McCall and school custodian Peter Morra.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Morra called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

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

A. Revenues

At this point, it appears that the Grand List will have a 1% growth. State aid may be even or a decrease of 5% to 10%. Last year's budget should be \$171,584 higher in revenues than anticipated. This number will definitely change some as a result of the audit but not significantly.

B. Expenditures

The BOE budget is within budget currently. The Town government budget unemployment category is over budget. This covers former Town and school employees. It could easily require \$30,000 over what was budgeted. Looking at next year, the highway union and general part time staff are not receiving an increase. Mr. Roscoe suggested beginning planning efforts for the next teacher's contract now, possible spending controls and projects.

C. Capital Improvements and School Project

Mr. Morra provided a status report on the sewer project: Phase 1 99% complete; Phase 2 50% complete; and Phase 3 will be bid shortly.

The Town is in the process of obtaining free solar panels for the library and fire department. Other buildings were not feasible. In addition, the Town is working with Direct Energy to provide homeowners with a reduced rate on electric charges. Mr. Smith, Ms. Shea and Ms. Stille provided an update on the high school project. Addressing PCB's under the new regulation is an additional expense that is growing. In addition, FF&E and technology budgets were greatly underfunded in the original budget estimates.

D. Savings Opportunities/Shared Services

The group discussed the Town/BOE shared services of snow removal being done by the Town. The BOE does not currently support this. Mr. Roscoe suggested a pilot program. The BOE will contact the Town to set a meeting date for subcommittees to discuss further.

3. DISCUSSION ON EDUCATION JOB FUNDING

The BOE has received a \$176,000 grant through federal funding. A survey of school districts provided by the BOE showed that the majority of districts are saving the funding for next year. Currently the BOE plans to do this. Funding is for personnel. Discussion occurred as to how the funds may be spent and accounted for in the budget.

4. DISCUSSION ON NEXUS FUNDS

The BOE shared its position on having nexus funding go directly to them. The auditor had made this recommendation, along with other recommendations, when he first started but also stated it was a local choice. A spreadsheet was distributed showing funding and budget for the last five (5) years. The Charter lays out a process for an additional appropriation request which is what occurred for the BOE budget last year. The funds requested were not covered by the additional nexus tuition received. After further discussion, it was agreed that a meeting would be held between Ms. Bergin, Mr. Smith, Mr. Morra, Mr. Munroe, Mr. McCall and Ms. Stille to discuss.

5. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Neil, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce M. Stille
Administrative Officer

Please see the minutes of subsequent meetings for the approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.