

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BUDGET COMMITTEE

Location: Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School – Media Room: 7:00 P.M.

January 28, 2015 FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Budget Committee Members Present: Leslie Browne, Karen Grybko, Cary Hughes, Ellen Pomer, Lisa Post, Secretary Dawn Tuomala.

School Board Members Present: Geoff Brock (Chair), Harry Dailey (Vice-Chair), Matt Ballou, Francis Bujak, James Button, Joyce Fisk, Carol LeBlanc, Mary Guild and Alexander LoVerme

Administration Present: Dr. Tyrie, Superintendent, Lise Tucher, Business Administrator, Betty Moore, Director of Student Support Services, Brian Bagley, Principle and Tim O'Connell, Principle

The Agenda was as follows:

1. Call Budget Committee Meeting to Order – in Media Center
2. Joint Session WLC Budget Committee & School Board
 - a. Budget FYI
 - b. Discussion of Public Hearing
 - c. Warrant Articles
3. Review and Approval of Minutes
 - a. January 20, 2015 Minutes
4. Other Business
5. Adjourn

1. Call Budget Committee Meeting to Order – in Media Center

Secretary Dawn Tuomala, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM as the only board member present tonight.

Chairman Davidson is away on business travel this evening. An ambulance call went out this morning for a man in cardiac arrest on Crooked S Road. It turns out that this was Vice-Chair Mark Altner, unfortunately he didn't survive and has passed earlier today. We admire Mr. Altner for joining the budget committee and accepting the vice chairmanship right away and filling Dave Roemer's very large shoes. He was very committed to this committee, always attending meeting and giving 100% of himself. Thoughts and prayers are with his family tonight. Services have not been finalized at this point but will be shared as they become available. We would like to have a moment of silence in his memory.

Not being able to conduct a meeting and take the minutes I would like to propose having Cary Hughes run the meeting for the Budget Committee tonight if everyone agrees. No opposition was noted. Mr. Hughes took over conducting the meeting.

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2. Joint Session WLC Budget Committee & School Board
a. Budget FYI

Dr. Tyrie started by presenting a slide show. The projected savings was estimated at \$345,000 resulting from a reduction of 4.5 staff positions and the SAU rent savings. The actual savings resulting from the consolidation was \$346,635 which was from 4.64 staff position reductions and the SAU rent. The new bond amount is \$331,690 or an additional savings of \$15,000.

There were a number of uncontrolled increases such as \$145,000 in NH retirement funding and health insurance and workman's compensation insurance. This was in addition to the \$100,000 increase due to the 2% teacher salary raises being this will be year 2 of the collective bargaining agreement. All but \$56,591 or a 0.5% increase has been absorbed into the proposed budget.

The pie charts shown indicate that 72% of the budget goes to employee salaries amounting to \$8,241,288. This is after a reduction of \$319,135 from the consolidated savings. There is 8.3% of the budget which is classified as discretionary. This would include items like the supplies and materials used by teachers and students. Therefore 91.7% of the spending is non-discretionary or 10,493,355.

Mr. Hughes spoke on behalf of Chairman Davidson stating that he would want to hold the budget as low as we possibly can but to avoid falling further behind in the technology department. Mr. Ballou was a tech director in school districts for 12 years and other places; before that he was in the corporate setting and before that he was in the military as an IT director. He feels that there should be a more defined plan and how to implement the technology infrastructure. This needs to have a staged plan on how to spend for the technology advancement.

Dr. Tyrie explained the proposal would be to go slower in increasing the hardware for the students and have the network issues repaired first. Putting more hardware onto the system as it exists today will only exacerbate the problems. They have a fair assessment of what needs to be done now and are planning how to fund it. Break it into 3 parts instead of coming up with all of it at this point. Network needs to be updated before the hardware is installed. Mr. Button stated that new hardware now would be foolish at this point. First fix the network with the money but he questioned where that money was since it isn't in the budget or the capital reserve.

Dr. Tyrie explained that they are having the spinning circle of death and printer problems due to not having enough band width or speed. They have looked at a couple of options to fix the network issues. Comcast cable is coming into FRES and will have a band width of 100 verses 6 supplied by TDS right now. At WLC if the infrastructure isn't there to support the hardware, than they won't get anything out of purchasing new hardware. They could do everything they intend to do if they break it up in thirds and use part of the unexpended fund balance. There was discussion about wireless verses hard wired. Dr. Tyrie explained that they need the hardwiring to have the wireless.

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The Technology Advancement Fund has \$21,500 already in it. Dr. Tyrie stated that they will need \$40,000 for wiring and \$50,000 for the backbone of the system that will come from Mainstay. This is a total of \$90,000 for repairing the infrastructure. Since they are not anticipating having that much money in unexpended funds this year she is proposing to break the project into thirds.

Mr. Bujack was looking for the total of the unexpended fund balance. Presently, they feel there will be \$275,000 but there are already warrant articles that will encumber parts of that. There is a proposal for \$95,000 going into the facilities and now we are considering adding more for the Tech. Adv. Capital Reserve Fund. This would be less going back to the taxpayers.

There was discussion about the addition of a SPED increase of \$100,000 which will raise the bottom line. This was just recently determined and there will need to be an increase in the budget for next year of \$100,000. There was discussion about if this was going to be enough money for an out of district placement. The net result is \$35,000 more than what the Budget Committee voted on last week.

Budget Committee Motion was made by Ms. Browne and seconded by Ms. Grybko to add \$35,000 to the approved number last week. Ms. Browne amended the motion for a total of \$11,538,208; 5 in favor; 1 abstained; motion passes.

School Board Motion was made by Mr. Dailey for an operating budget of \$11,538,208; seconded by Mr. Bujack; All in favor; motion passes unanimously.

School Board Motion was made by Mr. Dailey to create a warrant for \$50,000 to be put into the Tech. Adv. Capital Reserve Account to pay for part of the technology update; monies to come from the unexpended fund balance; seconded by Mr. Ballou.

Discussion about making WLC school comparable to what is going into FRES with a 100 band width instead of the 6 that they presently have. Something needs to be done this year to fix the issues and start bringing the school up to speed. There was more discussion about putting this into the operating budget verses a warrant. A warrant would be more transparent.

School Board Motion was made by Mr. Bujack to amend the motion to remove unexpended fund balance and replace it with to raise and appropriate on taxation. Call the question on the amendment: all in favor. Amendment carries unanimously.

Call the School Board question on the amended proposal to take the monies out of taxation and to be placed in the Tech. Adv. Capital Reserve Fund; All in favor; motion carries unanimously.

Budget Committee Motion was made by Ms. Brown to recommend \$50,000 to be put in the Tech. Adv. Capital Reserve Account, second by Ms. Post; 5 in favor; 1 abstention (Mr. Dailey); Motion Carries.

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b. Discussion for Public Hearing

There was mutual agreement on the numbers on the power point presentation.

c. Warrant Articles

The Warrant Article 5 was previously approved by the Budget Committee dealing with the Collective Bargaining Agreement warrant article and the School Board also approved the warrant article.

Warrant Article 7 is in regard to being able to use the interest that has been generated from the bond balance. The Budget Committee had previously recommended the article. The School Board recommends the article.

Warrant Article 8 to raise and appropriate \$40,000 for implementing an Extended Day Kindergarten Program. The Budget Committee had previously Recommended this Article. The School Board recommends the article.

Warrant Article 9 in regards to raising the sum of \$172,978 for the purpose of implementing a Full Day Kindergarten Program. The Budget Committee had previously Not Recommended this article.

Chairman Brock spoke to the full day kindergarten stating that he believes that it is the right thing for the District to do. They might be in a better position to get the \$40,000 approved for the extended day and then work on the full day.

School Board Motion was made by Mr. Dailey to remove the Article regarding the Full Day Kindergarten Program, seconded by Mr. LoVerme; All in favor; motion carries unanimously to remove the Article.

Warrant Article 10 to purchase a new 4x4 Pick-Up Truck with a Plow for \$31,319 was Not Recommended by the Budget Committee.

School Board Motion to take the truck off the warrant articles was made by Mr. LoVerme and seconded by Mr. Button. Discussion: Mr. Ballou asked why would they remove the truck Article? Mr. Bujack stated just look out the window that parking lot is in poor shape tonight. Mr. LoVerme stated that if it gets turned down than they can't get the truck this year. Buddy has made phone calls to the Town and there was no response but Carnival Hill was cleaned up. Ms. LeBlanc stated that you can't expect the staff to use their personal vehicles. Mr. Button stated that it is unfortunate that we need a truck for transportation and are putting the plowing together. There is no reason why the towns can't do a good job. This is a bad way to solve a problem and that there should be discussions with the right people. There is a tractor that is available to take care of the fields, but there is someone else taking care of the fields now. These are two different issues and should be addressed separately.

There were a number of questions that the Budget Committee had asked in regards to the use of the truck. There will be 3 people that will be driving the

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truck. The truck will go between the schools and it will be housed at the High School Lot. It can be parked under one of the lights because there are a number of cameras throughout the site. Who will be filling the persons job while they are away. There are also food service that needs to be moved between the schools. Maybe cancel the plow and just purchase the truck, snow cleanup can be done with the tractor. This way they won't have to burden the Town crews. They can move the banks out of the way. Mr. Dailey feels that this should go before the voters.

Call the Question: 2 in favor; 5 opposed; motion fails.

Principle Bagley described that the truck will be able to go and get sand and salt for the school. They can transport broken equipment and purchase fuel. The cameras are on throughout the property resulting in a 24 hours eye on the truck. The ones who will be driving the truck will be Dan, Bird and Buddy. This will not be allowed to be taken home but shall be left on school property. There was a question about how much has been spent in mileage reimbursement.

There was discussion about the \$95,000 to be raised from the unexpended fund balance and the article to also raise \$95,000 from taxation. The Budget Committee voted to recommend the article for the \$95,000 coming from taxation and not to recommend the article coming from the unexpended fund balance. They need to have half a million dollars in this account within the next 6 years to pay for the roof. The monies in the account have already been designated to go to other projects. The Budget Committees understanding was that this was a choice between the articles and that the other one would be eliminated.

Chairman Brock explained that this was not their intent and that they wanted both warrants to get \$190,000 put into the Capital Reserve Fund. They need the money because in a few years the bond amount is going to increase for the Town of Wilton Taxpayers right when they will need to be putting on the new roof. It is better to take it all now so that there won't be an even larger spike with the bond spike hits.

School Board Motion to remove Article 11 putting \$95,000 from the unexpended fund balance into the WLC Building/Equipment and Roadway Capital Reserve Account; seconded by Mr. Dailey; All in favor; motion passes.

School Board Motion to change article 12 by raising the amount of \$95,000 to \$190,000 was made by Mr. Bujack and seconded by Mr. LoVerme; all in favor; motion passes unanimously.

Budget Committee Motion was made to by Ms. Browne to amend Article 12 to \$190,000; seconded by Ms. Pomer; Discussion: Ms. Grybko would like to see the facilities plan before deciding upon this motion. The Budget Committee has never seen the CIP plan for all of the facilities. This report was a collection of the various reports and studies that have been done through the years.
Motion was tabled until a joint meeting on February 5, 2015 at 6:30 PM just before the Public Hearing.

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There was discussion on Article 13 regarding the retention of 2.5% of the unexpended funds at the end of the year. Mr. Hughes stated that the Budget Committee didn't feel that there was a clear enough understanding of the limits of this fund and the Budget Committee does not recommend this Article.

School Board Motion was made to delete Article 13 regarding the retention of the 2.5% of the funds was made by Mr. Button; seconded by Mr. Dailey. All in favor; motion passes the Article will be deleted.

3. Minutes Review and Approval

- a. January 20, 2015** - This was postponed until next time.

4. Other Business

We should meet at 6:30 prior to the Public Hearing to discuss the facilities plan and to finish the vote on

5. Adjournment

The next meeting will be a joint meeting on February 5, 2015 at 6:30 PM location Media Center. The Public Hearing will be right after in the Media Center at 7:00 PM. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ms. Pomer and seconded by Ms. Grybko all in favor. The School Budget Committee was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Tuomala, Secretary